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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Tripartite Committee Meets in Jeddah

King Fahd Addresses Members

NC2410170789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] King Fahd told the final meeting of the Lebanese deputies at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah today that the election of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies speaker and president of the republic, as well as the endorsement of the accord document are set for 7 November.

The meeting began with a speech by the Saudi monarch in which he stated that the agreement reached by the deputies affirms that the only solution to the Lebanese crisis is one that is derived from legitimacy. He noted that the Arab tripartite committee will not hesitate to do its utmost to create an approprite atmosphere and help implement the agreement, which constitutes a fair and balanced framework for realizing the Lebanese people's aspirations for sovereignty, independence, unity, and equality.

The Saudi king called on the international parties concerned, particularly the UN Secuity Council and the major states, to live up to their responsibilities and implement UN Resolution 425 that calls for Israel's withdrawal from the south. He noted that Syria had stressed its willingness to help the State of Lebanon establish its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. He pointed out that a full agreement and complete understanding had been reached with Syria under which the Syrian troops will end their security mission in Lebanon within a period not exceeding 2 years.

The Saudi monarch said the Arab tripartite committee has decided on the following:

1. To ask the staff of the Chamber of Deputies to call for a meeting of the Chamber not later than Tuesday, 7 Novemeber, to elect a speaker and the Chamber staff office, endorse the national accord document, and elect a president of the republic.
2. To ensure security at the meeting's venue in coordination with the Chamber staff office and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, representative of the Arab tripartite committee in Lebanon, and the other parties concerned.
3. Ibrahimi will undertake security arrangements to provide the necessary protection at the meeting's location and ensure that the deputies reach the site.
4. Ibrahimi will immediately begin to carry out steps to implement these decisions.

Syrian Presence Discussed

NC2410161689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1547 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] According to an urgent report distributed by AFP, the Arab tripartite committee has announced in Jeddah that an Arab summit meeting will be entrusted with the task of supervising and implementing a future agreement between Lebanon and Syria to determine the duration of the Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon.

According to AFP, this supervision will begin following the redeployment of Syrian troops in eastern Lebanon over a period not exceeding 2 years. The redeployment of forces will begin after constitutional reforms are voted on.

According to the text of the Arab tripartite committee statement, which was read at the closing session of the Lebanese deputies in Jeddah today, the Syrian troops should end their security mission in Lebanon during the redeployment period so that the legitimate Lebanese forces can take over.

Tripartite Committee Statement

NC2610065689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1640 GMT 24 Oct 89

["Text" of the Arab tripartite committee's statement read at the final meeting of the Lebanese deputies on 24 Oct in Jeddah—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The supreme Arab tripartite committee has followed with great interest the meetings held by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between 30 September and 22 October 1989. The Lebanese deputies held consultations in al-Ta'if in answer to their national duties and in reply to an invitation from the tripartite committee.

The tripartite committee is pleased to record its deep appreciation of the Lebanese deputies' great historical achievement. The deputies' work has established their unity and their eagerness to rebuild their country on the basis of national reconciliation.

The committee applauds the great efforts exerted by the deputies in discussing the national accord document, the sense of historic responsibility which they have exhibited, as well as their devotion to the supreme interests of their country.

The committee is also pleased to congratulate the brotherly Lebanese people who have suffered and sacrificed for so long. The committee prays to God that this accomplishment will help establish security and stability all over Lebanon and spread peace, coexistence, accord, and harmony among its people.

The agreement reached by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if underlines the fact that the only possible solution to the Lebanese crisis must proceed from the lawful Lebanese institutions [al-shar'iyah al-lubnaniyah] and that the issue of peace and the revitalization of constitutional institutions, so neccessary for the preservation of Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence, is the only way to achieve that solution. The agreement is a crucial first step that will be followed by others. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies will have to ratify the national accord document, elect a president of the

republic, and form a government of national reconciliation committed to the document and that will promptly initiate constitutional procedures to implement that document.

The supreme Arab tripartite committee will not spare any efforts in laying the groundwork and in assisting in the implementation of these steps.

Introducing reforms to the Lebanese political system will lead to genuine sharing of the decisionmaking process and to the formation of a viable state apparatus. These reforms have political and administrative sides which concern the powers of the president, the prime minister, and the cabinet; the broadening of the membership of the Chamber of Deputies; the abolition of sectarian politics, education, and information; and other economic and social aspects. These reforms aspire to satisfy the needs of the Lebanese for coexistence in a free country; for equality of opportunity among the citizens; for an atmosphere of prosperity, peace, and welfare; and for justice, peace, and reconciliation. The reforms aspire to establish solidarity among the Lebanese so that the latter can build a future of unity, independence, and cultural achievement and to resume their role in the Arab and international communities.

The establishment of Syrian-Lebanese relations on the basis of sovereignty and independence will emphasize and consolidate the fraternal relations between the two countries within the framework of common interests and mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and the right for each to excercise its national will on all its territories.

The Arab Republic of Syria has asserted its readiness to help the State of Lebanon to impose its authority over all Lebanese territory. The Casablanca summit has also emphasized the Arab countries' support for the Lebanese Government in every measure it adopts to impose its authority over all its territory through its own forces.

Regarding the security and defense tasks undertaken by the Syrian forces in Lebanon, the higher Arab tripartite committee has reached complete agreement and full understanding with sisterly Syria, in which the Syrian troops present in Lebanon will end their security mission within a period of not more than 2 years according to the national reconciliation document. During this period, the legitimate Lebanese forces will take over full responsibility for security from the Syrian troops which will, meanwhile, redeploy to the locations stipulated by the national reconciliation document. The duration of the Syrian forces' presence in those locations will be determined according to an agreement to be reached between the Syrian and the Lebanese Governments. An Arab summit meeting will be responsible for concluding and implementing this agreement.

In accordance with the above-mentioned principles, the higher Arab tripartite committee is pleased to reiterate the Casablanca Arab summit resolution which expressed determination to help Lebanon out of its ordeal, end its sufferings, restore normalcy, impose the state's sovereighty and authority over all Lebanese national territory, and begin reconstruction, so that Lebanon can resume its natural role as a member of the Arab family. In this context, the committee particularly wishes to emphasize the following:

1. A true solution to the Lebanese problem is one that is made by preserving Lebanon's independence and its sovereignty over its territory. The Arab framework is the natural framework for resolving the Lebanese crisis.

2. The collective Arab responsibility for the situation in Lebanon, and all the Arab countries' commitment to realizing the goals approved by the Casablanca Arab summit meeting, will continue. This commitment emanates from the genuine sense of national responsibility and from the Arab League Charter.

3. The Casablanca summit has expressed its eagerness to follow up the implementation of its resolution on the Lebanese crisis. The Arab tripartite committee will brief the summit's participants on the various phases of implementation. The Arab states will not hesitate to perform their duty to meet the needs of the peace process in Lebanon, until Lebanon restores its unity and full sovereignty, with the Almighty's help.

4. Any problem which the Lebanese national accord government may encounter will receive full attention, care, and follow up from the higher Arab tripartite committee and the Arab summit. The committee, backed by the Arab summit, will not hesitate to support the Lebanese national accord government in overcoming any obstacles that it may encounter.

5. The higher Arab tripartite committee reiterates the Arab states' commitment and determination to help the State of Lebanon in safeguarding its unity, independence, and sovereignty, in implementing the international resolutions which call for the complete elimination of the Israeli occupation, in strengthening all legitimate Lebanese institutions, the Constitution, its security, and its military, and in reconstructing Lebanon in cooperation with the rest of the world.

Finally, the Arab higher tripartite committee, as it expresses its full appreciation for the fruitful cooperation shown by sisterly Syria in order to arrive at this important stage, particularly appreciates sisterly Syria's reiteration of its readiness to make a serious contribution to putting the national reconciliation document into effect. While calling on all the parties concerned to demonstrate their sincere cooperation with the current efforts to provide a favorable atmosphere for completing the steps to be taken following the agreement reached in al-Ta'if, the Arab committee decides the following:

1. To request the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to hold a Chamber meeting, at a date not later than Tuesday, 7 November 1989, to elect a speaker and deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and members of the Chamber's staff, to ratify the

national reconciliation document, and to elect a president of the republic in accordance with the Casablanca Arab summit resolution.
2. To provide a secure venue for the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies, through coordination between the office of the Chamber speaker, the Arab tripartite committee representative in Lebanon, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, and other parties concerned.
3. To charge the Arab tripartite committee representative in Lebanon with the task of drawing up the security program designed to provide the necessary protection for the meeting's venue and guarantee the deputies arrival at the meeting place in coordination with the parties concerned.
4. Lakhdar Ibrahimi will immediately initiate the necessary measures to put these decisions into effect.

We implore the Almighty to guide us to what is best for fraternal Lebanon and for our glorious Arab nation.

ACC Leaders Hold Meeting in Baghdad 25 Oct

JN2510150789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] In Baghdad, the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries, His Majesty King Husayn; His Excellency President Saddam Husayn; His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a meeting in the al-Sharq Hall in Saddam's international airport this morning.

During the meeting, a discussion of several issues which interest the march of the ACC and Arab causes were discussed. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn then accompanied his guests the ACC leaders to their places of residence in Baghdad.

King Hassan Addresses Mahreb Unity Gathering

LD2010172889 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 20 (MAP)—King Hassan II Thursday presided at the installation ceremony of the 50 member Consultative Council of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA).

During the ceremony, attended by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, Prince Moulay Rachid and Prince Moulay Hicham, the sovereign reaffirmed faith in democracy and shura (consultation and concertation) pointing out that at the moment Maghreban countries decided to set up the Consultative Council, they implicitly committed themselves to seek its advice and enable it to take the initiative to extend them advice.

"No Maghreban head of state would ignore the advice or viewpoints voiced by you since you are the expression and emanation of the popular will, and our responsibility as leaders compel us to take into account the views of the base and the ideas of the representatives of our countries...," King Hassan II said.

Stressing the prominent role of the council, the sovereign said Maghreban leaders decided to reconsider the number of MPs [Members of Parliament] representing each state during the upcoming Maghreban summit.

After he recalled the big strides covered by the UMA in so short a span of time, King Hassan said, "there is no doubt that every country has its own characteristics and specificities, but what is most important is that we all be supporters of concertation and mutual contribution to succeed in edifying the Arab Maghreb Union".

"We cannot claim that all difficulties existing between some Maghreban countries have been settled nor that all problems were resolved. I do not want to specify these difficulties or problems. What I want to stress is that it is most necessary to apply to them the positive dynamics of history," the sovereign said, adding that "The dimension of our actions, that of our hopes, the dynamics stemming from our peoples and their leaders, all this will contribute to overcome obstacles, settle all problems and will undoubtedly help us find the soonest possible the definite means to pave the way before us all, whether at the bilateral or multilateral level".

Pointing out that the future of the union is promising all the more so since the advent of the UMA took place in a climate of international detente, the sovereign urged Maghreban MPs to go ahead while raising Maghreban younger generations in line with the Maghreban ideal, an ideal, King Hasssan II said, that will certainly have a positive impact on neighbouring countries mainly African ones.

The sovereign also informed Maghreban MPs about the telephone conversation he had had with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who were meeting in Tubruq, Libya, expressing appreciation for this "important" meeting which could not have been possible without the two countries' reconciliation during and after the Arab extraordinary summit of Casablanca.

The installation ceremony was attended by members of the Moroccan cabinet, Maghreban secretaries of state in charge of UMA affairs, Arab ambassadors accredited to Rabat and several other personalities.

Arab Transport Ministers Meet in Baghdad

Ramadan Delivers Address

JN2110173889 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 21, INA—Meetings of 5th session of the Arab transport ministers began here today.

Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC [Revolution Command Council] member and first deputy premier, opened the session and delivered a speech on behalf of President Saddam Husayn.

Mr Ramadan stressed the importance of transport in pushing forward the march of progress and development in human societies. Therefore, he said the leadership in Iraq had given the transport sector great attention and care as this sector had suffered a lot during the previous eras. He said that the development witnessed by Iraq in the transport field was realized after the 17-30 July revolution and that all strategic projects in this field were carried out under the war conditions.

Mr Ramadan said that the Iranian aggression had affected the Iraqi naval, land and air outlets since the first days of aggression. He added that the marine outlets were closed before navigation and transport movement between Iraq and the world via the Arab Gulf.

Mr Ramadan added that the will and the capability of the Iraqi leadership to overcome all the difficulties had found alternative outlets in al-'Aqabah, Yanbu', Jeddah and Kuwait and the export and import activities increased through these outlets and Iraq's comprehensive development plan continued in the same activity of the pre-war period.

Mr Ramadan said that many of Iraq's major projects in the transport sector, which were started before the war, did not stop but work in them continued more actively to be completed in record times.

He said that some of those projects started in the most difficult periods of the war. He added that during this period Iraq accomplished a giant railway project linking Baghdad, al-Qa'im and 'Ukashat with a 535 km line and linking the western areas with each other.

Mr Ramadan said that Iraq also accomplished another project linking Baghdad, Kirkuk, Ba'iji and al-Hadithah with a 282 km long railway line. He added that Iraq also carried out other projects in this field to ensure linking the industrial areas and presidential complexes with a network of railway lines all over the country.

Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq was deprived throughout the eight years of war from its ports that were situated at the range of Iranian fire and this situation resulted in destroying parts of those ports and their platforms. He added that since ceasefire, Iraq started rebuilding and expanding the platforms and accomplishing and opening others which were constructed during the war bringing the capacity of the Iraqi ports to 9.8 million tonnes per year through using 18 platforms. He added that Iraq recently signed a contract to build 13 new platforms with additional capacity of four million tonnes.

Mr Ramadan stressed that within Iraq's campaign to clear parts of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, many big ships and naval vessels and cargoes were lifted and floated. He said that Iraq continued clearing other waterways and preparing the Iraqi ports for international, Arab and local navigation.

Concerning marine transport, Mr Ramadan said that Iraq was working to expand this sector and to increase its operative lines and use commercially. He said that the Iraqi fleet worked during the war period in alternative ports and some of its units were stocked in the waterways.

Mr Ramadan said the Iraqi fleet started working since the first hour of ceasefire and the Iraqi ship 'al-Idrisi' sailed from the Iraqi ports towards the world ports and the ship 'Khawlah' was also received.

Mr Ramadan added that Iraqi and foreign ships continued sailing from and to the waterways and this is an additional practical evidence of Iraq's desire for peace and creating peace atmospheres to be comprehensive and permanent in the region and all over the world.

He added that in the air transport sector, Iraq had constructed two international airports, the first of which was the Saddam international airport in Baghdad and the second was the Basra international airport which was opened directly after ceasefire.

Mr Ramadan stressed that any cooperation in the field of transport among Arab brethren, whether between two or more countries or a group of countries, would be in the interest of all the Arabs and in the interest of their developments and their progress and would promote the process of joint Arab action which witnessed remarkable and practical beginnings in the field of Arab cooperation whose foundations were laid by the great victory realized by the Iraqis under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn and by the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people against the Zionist occupation.

Agenda of the Arab transport ministers meetings include two drafts pertaining to declaring principles of anti-maritime fraudulence and maritime piracy besides coordination with the African Transport Ministers Council in the field of air transport and backing the technical organ of the general secretariat to carry out duties of the council organizataions in the field of transport.

The ministers will discuss the accession to the agreement of exchanging tax exemptions over equipment and activities of the Arab air transport institutions and following up resolutions of the 7th session as well as choosing emblem of the Arab Transport Ministers Council.

Ministers Conclude Meetings

JN2310164389 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 23, INA—Arab transport ministers have decided to draw up maps for a road and rail net and axes of connection among the Arab countries.

Winding up their 5th session here last night, the ministers recommended giving priority to projects of merging

Arab aviation companies into broader units, constructing common centres for engine maintenance services and studying pricing policy to encourage Arab citizens to transfer within the Arab countries.

The ministers also endorsed organizing an Arab exhibition for manufacturing transport media and their components, conducting an international argument [as received] on continental linkage, and preparing studies on setting up an Arab body for vessel classification, common insurance on civil aviation fleets and cooperation in the field of plane supply and related maintenance centres.

Furthermore, the Arab ministers assented to join the agreement on tax exemption on Arab air transport bodies' activities and equipment and hold the forthcoming 6th session in Cairo in October 1990.

The ministers adopted the Baghdad Declaration concerning air piracy combat and decided to be part of the relevant international accords.

They appreciated efforts of the trilateral Arab committee to restore peace and security to Lebanon.

The ministers condemned the Mecca incidents during the past haj season advocating Saudi Arabia's measures to protect the sanctuaries.

They also hailed the heroic role of the Palestinian people and their intifadah inside occupied Arab lands.

Taking part in the meeting were also representatives from Arab academy for marine transport, land transport, rail, Arab naval ports and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

ACC Labor Ministers Conclude Cairo Meetings

NC2210213989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Labor ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries concluded their meetings this evening, which began in Cairo this morning.

'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, minister of manpower and training, said the conferees reviewed what has been accomplished since their first meeting in Baghdad last August. [passage omitted]

He said that the ministers have agreed to eliminate all obstacles and problems in a way that will allow the implementation of the labor agreement. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Reasserts Rejection of Baker Plan

NC2510144189 Paris AFP in English 1427 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, Oct 25 (AFP)—The PLO reaffirmed its rejection here Wednesday of a U.S. initiative for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, despite reports in Cairo that it was still weighing Washington's proposals.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information officer for the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the PLO "totally rejects" the five-point formula proposed earlier this month by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

In a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here, Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said the PLO "had nothing to do with the Baker plan," which would reportedly allow Israel to approve the composition of any Palestinian delegation in an eventual dialogue.

The organization's second in command, Salah Khalaf, also said Wednesday that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat—who met Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo on Monday and Tuesday—had insisted that the PLO select Palestinian representatives.

An Egyptian spokesman said Monday after the Mubarak-'Arafat talks that the PLO had not in fact rejected the Baker proposals, despite a statement to that effect at its recent Central Council meeting, and had instead sought clarifications from Washington.

The U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Frank Wisner, said Tuesday that Egyptian officials had provided him with several questions from the PLO on the Baker formula.

But both Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh and Mr. Khalaf insisted that what had been sought was a U.S. response to the position taken at last week's Central Council session.

The council, meeting in Baghdad, reasserted that the PLO must be responsible for naming the members of the Palestinian team to any future talks with Israel.

According to Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh the PLO also holds that the dialogue should be attended by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and should be a prelude to an international Middle East peace conference.

Israel on Tuesday accepted Mr. Baker's formula on condition that the United States guarantees that the PLO does not participate, even indirectly, and that discussions deal only with elections in the occupied territories.

'Abd-Rabbuh Visits Jordan, Discusses Relations

JN2310101089 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Oct 89 p 1

[By Basim Sakkijha]

[Text] Baghdad—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, in his capacity as member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], visited Jordan last week—the first DFLP official to do so since the departure from Jordan in the wake of the events of September 1970.

AL-QUDS has learned that 'Abd-Rabbuh, who was accompanied by Political Bureau members Salih Ra'fat and Mamduh Nawfal, met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and discussed with him matters of concern to the DFLP and the Jordanian Government.

Palestinian sources expect this visit to be a prelude to the one by DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, to take place later on. It will signal an important change in the Jordanian Government's view of "the opposition Palestinian organizations" and relations with the PLO. And, the opposite is also true.

Hawatimah is from the Jordanian city of al-Salt and his organization has a Jordanian branch that recently became a political party—the Jordanian People's Democratic Party—in preparation for participation in the parliamentary elections and entering the new Jordanian stage of pluralism.

Asked by AL-QUDS about this, Hawatimah, who was in Baghdad to attend the PLO Central Council meetings, said: "We look on the delegation's visit as we look on our relations with all the other Arab countries on the basis of the Arab summit resolutions. We in the DFLP were the first to hail the Jordanian Government for its disengagement from the Palestinian West Bank and for its recognition of the State of Palestine. We also took the intiative on the eve of the Palestine National Council session to embark on an intra-Palestinian dialogue to discuss the reformulation of the Palestinian-Jordan relationship to achieve normal relations in order to discuss a comprehensive and balanced solution to the Palestine question. The DFLP reformulated internal relations within the country [Jordan] in light of the disengagement, and we were able—in cooperation with national blocs and personalities—to form and declare the People's Democratic Party. This party came up with a new program and new bylaws to meet the new formula of relations based on its independence from the DFLP and on it being one of the national Jordanian factions among the two peoples."

Hawatimah said: "During the visit, the Jordanian Government asked about these developments and the form of relationship between the front and the party. The two sides also discussed the political developments in the Middle East. The DFLP delegation explained that the party is independent; however, it has strong political and militant relations with the DFLP. These relations will continue as will consultation and coordination, but from independent positions."

Asked whether he will pay a visit to Jordan, he said: "So far, the visit is not on the agenda; however, when normal relations resume the visit to Jordan will become natural."

Observers associate the expected development with Hawatimah's visit to Iraq, where he was received by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and where the meeting was announced in the official media organs. In light of this background, the observers ask about the future of the DFLP's relations with Damascus which has been the headquarters of the front for many years.

However, the more important questions focus on "the new Jordan" that will absorb all opinions and trends, including those who were considered extremist at one time.

'Arafat Interviewed While in Czechoslovakia

AU2410132289 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Oct 89 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and President of the State of Palestine, by Jana Casnochova and Boris Latta: "In the Interest of Peace for Our Children and for Your Children"—in Prague on 19 October]

[Text] During the final day of his official friendly visit to Czechoslovakia, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and president of the State of Palestine, gave an interview to RUDE PRAVO and PRAVDA.

[Question] How do you evaluate Czechoslovak-Palestinian cooperation to date and what are its future prospects from the point of view of the results of your talks in Prague and Bratislava?

['Arafat] I must highlight the principled stance of Czechoslovakia, its people, and leadership toward our issue. We are obliged to you for your support for the Palestinian people's just cause. It is no accident that it is said—when in need you will find a friend. And Czechoslovakia is that friend. From the very beginning, it has stood resolutely on the side of the just Palestinian cause.

The results of the present visit are significant. They are positive, whether from the point of view of the further development of Czechoslovak-Palestinian relations or from the point of view of the joint support for the struggle for peace in the Middle East. In the latter case, we still see a starting point in the convention of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the parties involved, including Israel and the PLO. The aim of this

is to find a lasting, comprehensive, and just solution in the interest of peace for our children and for your children.

We highly appreciate the Czechoslovak initiatives that support the struggle for peace not only in the Middle East but also those that are a contribution to the effort to preserve life on our planet without military conflicts.

[Question] The West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip are a constant target for Israeli aggression. What is the situation at present in this region?

['Arafat] Unfortunately, I must state that we are still witnesses to the Israeli iron-fist policy. And the occupiers' aggression is still gaining in its intensity. During the past 22 months of the popular uprising alone, approximately 960 people have died a violent death. Some 48,000 Palestinians have been wounded and for 6,500 of these people the consequences are permanent. The utilization of internationally prohibited chemical weapons has destroyed the lives of 5,000 unborn children. The attempt to starve Gaza to death or the confiscation of Palestinian property in the town of Bayt Sahur, including children's toys, are an element of the Israeli plan. In the Israeli concentration camps, which, sadly, in more ways than one, resemble the notorious Auschwitz death camp from the time of Nazi bestiality during World War II, 64,000 Palestinian patriots are eking out a miserable existence. The above-mentioned comparison is not my invention. Israeli journalists who were able to see for themselves at first hand also arrived at this comparison. Hectares of fruit orchards have fallen victim to the occupiers' barbaric conduct.

However, I can declare responsibly that the popular uprising will continue right to the very end of the Israeli occupation. In connection with this, I turn to all states with an appeal that they quickly take steps which could lead to a truly just peace. The more so because Shamir's government is driving the situation onto a knife edge.

[Question] The recent PLO Central Council session in Baghdad adopted a point of view on the proposal by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which concerns Israeli-Palestinian talks on elections in the occupied Arab territories.

['Arafat] Our position is clear. We agree with elections as such. However, we reject those American proposals that support Shamir's plan. I think, in this connection, that I have the right to ask why the U.S. Administration does not agree with elections being held in the same spirit as they will be held in Namibia. Why could we not resolve the issue of elections in the same way? Why also should Shamir continue to have support when it is well known that he is an opponent of any kind of proposals and is an adherent to the policy of suppressing the Palestinian people? If it were not for unlimited U.S. assistance, Shamir and Israel would not be able to occupy our territory. The question arises here—would, perhaps, U.S. President George Bush agree to what is happening today in the Biblical city of Bayt Sahur, in the Gaza Strip, in Jerusalem, or on the West Bank of Jordan—looting, repression, simply, terror—happening in the United States? The United States declares that it is the defender of human rights everywhere in the world...except for Palestinian human rights! In this connection, how am I to explain G. Bush's statement on the necessity of ending Israeli occupation?

[Question] At the 19th session of the Palestinian National Council in Algeria, the PLO came up with some concrete proposals....

['Arafat] The program, which it approved, contains several initiatives. These immediately won the broad support of the world community, including the United Nations. Only the United States and Israel remained in opposition. They are practically in isolation due to this stance. The Palestinians will continue to be faithful to the road along which they have embarked. At the same time, we are not isolated.

It is sad to state that the Israeli Government is committing the same crimes as the Nazis committed against the Jews and all European nations during World War II. And, unfortunately, Washington is stubbornly paying lip service to Shamir's policy. At the same time, it is known that resistance is growing within the Israeli Government itself, where voices can be heard more and more which have reservations about current official policy, the victims of which are our women and children.

[Question] Do you think that the concept of two states for two peoples is realistic in light of the inflexibility of the Israeli ruling circles?

['Arafat] An international resolution has specified the establishment of two states. The overwhelming majority of the world community agrees with this. And Israel? As long as it has any kind of support whatsoever it will remain inflexible. I believe that in the end the weight of world opinion will compel Tel Aviv to stop ignoring peace initiatives. Will, for example, millions of Americans continue to agree ad infinitum to support a policy that deserves the attribute fascist? Will the American people be willing to keep financing from their own pockets further Israeli crimes against the Palestinians? It is a question that, however, does not only concern the Americans.

[Interviewers] Thank you for the interview.

PFLP's Al-Zibri on PLO Council, 10 Points

JN2310184789 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
21 Oct 89 pp 1, 24

[Interview with Mustafa al-Zibri, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, "during the PLO Central Council's meetings in Baghdad"]

[Excerpts] [AL-QABAS] Can we consider the PLO Central Council's resolutions a clear answer to the five U.S. points proposed recently by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for finding a framework for negotiations to bring into agreement the so-called Egyptian and Israeli concerns on an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue?

[Al-Zibri] The resolutions adopted by the PLO Central Council during its meetings in Baghdad from 15-17 October constituted a response to Baker's plan on the one hand, and a preventive measure against any attempt to undermine, or infringe upon Palestinian representation on the other. In the past few months, we have felt that the United States was trying, along with some Arab parties, to make Palestinian representation an issue over which there can be bargaining or barter.

Additionally, the resolutions reaffirmed adherence to the Palestinian initiative and to international resolutions and the international conference as the basis for negotiations.

It is about time the Americans and Israel understood that their ploys will not deceive the PLO or the Palestinian people. We understand the background to U.S. policy toward the Palestinian people, which remains unchanged. It is represented by the well-known no's—no to representation through the PLO, no to the independent Palestinian state, and no to the right to self determination. These also constitute the basis of Israeli policy toward the Palestinian people.

We in the PLO, as Palestinian people, are prepared for a long battle. The Israeli measures will not terrorize us, nor will the U.S. maneuvers and pressures. Our determination will get stronger day by day because there will be no retreat from the rallying cry of freedom and independence. [passage omitted]

[AL-QABAS] Do you think that Egypt, through its 10 points, tried to revive the Camp David accords?

[AL-Zibri] We were told that it was an attempt to rescue Shamir's plan after it failed to move one single step forward, although these points appeared to be mild. We did not find in the Egyptian points a response to three basic points. They do not refer to the PLO as a representative of the Palestinian people, nor do they refer to the rights of the Palestinian people as reflected in the initiative of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in its Algiers session or to the need to convene the international conference. It was therefore possible to look at this with satisfaction.

I believe the 10 points were part of the U.S. maneuver—another aspect of the game of the Kissinger-led team, represented by Dennis Ross, Begin, and others. This game is based on keeping the U.S. role always in the light as the only possible political role in the Middle East; the aim is to block other international roles, for instance the role of the European countries and the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council. Through some of its games, the U.S. Administration tries to show the vitality of its political moves. This was highlighted during the EC meetings last year. The EC sent three European ministers to Israel—the ex-chairman of the EC, a Frenchman, and the Spanish and Greek foreign ministers—to explore its views on peace plans. The ministers concluded that the solution should be based on the international resolutions. They later expressed this view to the U.S Administration, but this administration prevented their continuation in expressing their full viewpoint regarding a solution. In other words, the Egyptian 10 points are the U.S. Administration's dish. Although it contains some sweet tidbits, it is essentially a poisonous dish. This dish uses the same U.S.-Israeli ingredients: 'No' to the PLO, 'no' to self determination, 'no' to the independent Palestinian state, and 'no' to the international conference. Another aspect of the 10 points is movement toward Camp David, and this is the basic goal of the U.S. Administration. Another aspect is to keep the U.S. political movement in a vicious cycle [sentence as published]. The 10 points, therefore, constitute a barrier preventing others from playing political roles in the Middle East. Some may wonder whether the United States is behind both the Shamir plan and the Egyptian 10 points; and if so, why there are differences between some points in the two plans; they may also wonder why the Israeli Government rejected the 10 points. We believe that this is part of the maneuver aimed at continuing the political cycle. Anyway, it is religiously unlawful to hit the dead, and these maneuvers are now dead, and there is no need to discuss this subject from the political point of view.

[AL-QABAS] Regarding the preparatory Palestinian-Israeli meeting, what do you expect, and what does it mean if the meeting takes place in the presence of the representatives of the five permanent Security Council member states?

[Al-Zibri] I do not expect such a meeting to be held, because no change has taken place in the major elements of the Israeli position, and because the Israelis believe that it is the Palestinian residents and not the Palestinian people, who should be dealt with. This means that the maximum that the Palestinian residents can obtain is autonomous rule under Israeli domination. Any step toward dealing with the PLO will mean dealing with the issue rather than the residents, and any dealing with the Palestinian people's representative will lead to discussing all the strong elements of the solution. In other words, when an occupier or a colonial power deals with a liberation movement, this means a recognition of the liberation movement as a representative of the people. This will foil its plans to deal only with the residents. Shamir told the residents of Judaea and Samaria that the question is a question of minority, and not an occupied land. By this he meant that the issue is no more than services for this minority. If Israel voices its readiness to sit down with the PLO, it will be a qualitative move. We

cannot consider these points apart from the final statement, which stresses the PLO's right to representation and Palestinian adherence to the Palestinian political initiative.

We can also say that the five points are complete in themselves. But we do not want the issue of the Palestinian representation to be a subject of bargaining or barter. We do not want to be under any trusteeship as though we were minors. We reject this. The Palestinian people have their representative. Furthermore, we can say that the proposed meeting should be a step toward the international conference. We will not allow anyone to impose an agenda on us. The Americans say that the agenda should be confined to the Israeli elections. We reject any conditions. However, I do not expect this to take place soon, because it requires a qualitative move within the political factors. [passage omitted]

Fatah's 'Atallah Comments on PLO-Jordan Ties

JN2310105089 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic
23 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah—FBIS], commander in chief of the Corrective Movement in Fatah and the PLO, has asserted that the justification which certain people used to demand the severance of the West Bank's links with Jordan, no longer exists today now that all separate official Palestinian efforts have reached a dead end. He said: Our higher national interests now demand that we insist on revoking that decision. He added: If the excuse behind the severance of links was to make the enemies deal with the PLO, that excuse or justification no longer exists now that everyone has refused to deal with the PLO.

Addressing a regular meeting of the Political Committee of the Corrective Movement's General Assembly last Monday, Brother Abu-al-Za'im said: I warned the PLO leadership right from the beginning against demanding the severance of the West Bank's links with Jordan because of the danger inherent in such a decision, which sought to tackle the Palestine question in isolation of the Palestinian national and pan-Arab forces. Today, that danger has become more serious when official Palestinian policy insisted on severing Arab links with the Palestine question, as if this central Arab issue is the sole concern of the Palestinians, or a handful of Palestinians, and not all the Arabs.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im asks: Why, and in whose interest, do we absolve the Arabs of their historic pan-Arab responsibility toward Palestine? He said: The issue is greater than all of us. So we should not bury our heads in the sand, but tell whoever is wrong that he is wrong, and whoever is right that he is right, without antagonizing anyone or supporting one side against another. Our words and actions must be inspired by the interest of our pan-Arab cause and the future and security of our coming generations.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im added: The Corrective Movement set logical principles for any serious effort to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement of the Palestine question when it said that an international conference is the only suitable framework for beginning negotiations on the basis of the exchange of land for peace. Such a conference must be called by the secretary general of the United Nations with the attendance of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council and the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO within a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation, on an equal footing. The Corrective Movement has called for such a solution because it believes in a joint Arab solution, not separate efforts. If the Arab solution succeeds that would mean regaining our occupied territory and ensuring recognition of our people's right to repatriation and self-determination. If the Arab solution fails, then all Arabs would assume the responsibility for that failure because the Palestine question is, first and foremost, a pan-Arab responsibility, not the responsibility of a single side.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im added: However, the Palestinian leadership, on the pretext of independent Palestinian decisionmaking, opted for the contrary. Thus, it openly recognized Israel and its security, and the 1967 borders, ignoring our rights usurped in 1948. This leadership described our national struggle as terrorism and gradually ceded our national and historical rights until we reached the extent of overburdening our people's valiant intifadah with the shame of recognizing Israel before any other Arab party. We even reached the extent of abandoning our national charter and the PLO's right to lead the Palestinian people and represent them both inside and outside the occupied homeland. We also tried to join a peaceful settlement through the proposed Israeli election plan. Yes, we have been dragged into recognizing Israel and admitting that our national struggle over the past years has been nothing but terrorism. We have been dragged into recognizing for Israel all the rights and land it usurped in 1948, and even in 1967, by announcing that we accept the establishment of our Palestinian state even over one inch of the Palestinian soil.

He said: We fully know that there must be no separate solution with the Palestinians. Any separate solution with the Palestinians will bring their existence to an end and will terminate their rights. All this is taking place under the slogan of safeguarding the independent national Palestinian decisionmaking. But from whom are we safeguarding this decisionmaking? We should have safeguarded it from our mistakes. We should not have raised it as a slogan against the Arabs. We should have told our Arab brothers: You are our partners in decisionmaking and destiny. Do not leave us alone in dealing with Israel and its ambitions, which go beyond Palestine.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im added: The Corrective Movement is against exempting Jordan and the Arabs from the

responsibility of saving Palestine and preparing collectively for an Arab solution which restores to the Palestinian people their occupied territory and secures their national inalienable rights. Hence, the Corrective Movement has called and continues to call for full Palestinian-Jordanian coordination as an axis for drawing a collective Arab effort for the sake of Palestine. This effort needs the mobilization of all pan-Arab forces and resources in the service of the required Arab solution for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, which we view as a conflict over existence not borders.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im said: Nobody has the right to exonerate any Arab from a pan-Arab responsibility toward the Palestine question. And, nobody has the right to move the Palestine question away from its pan-Arab pivot. However, the mistake is that since the beginning we added 1 and 1 together and the result was 16. Therefore, our calculations that were based on this grave mistake were a series of terrible mistakes, and we have to review our calculations from the beginning if we want to come up with sound, logical stands.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im spoke about the importance of the political committee, he said: We, in the Corrective Movement, are still at the stage of building and organizing. This is a continuous process that does not stop. Our task today is to qualify a large number of the cadres because we want to build a strong organization that can assume its national and pan-Arab role. He added: We have made good progress in building the organization and mobilizing public awareness of the various aspects of our Palestine question. However, we should realize that the solution is not on hand. We should build a sound organization that believes in the issue of its people and homeland and mobilizes itself for this issue regardless of the time and sacrifices.

He said: We in the Corrective Movement support the principles on which the Fatah Movement and the PLO were established. We, since the beginning, have announced that we are not an alternative to the PLO, but a corrective movement within the PLO that calls for avoiding the pitfalls and mistakes to reach the central objectives of our Palestinian people through laying down a real, positive, and effective program of our national struggle, which we consider an integrated part of the general Arab struggle for a better future. Out of this belief, we announced, since the first day of launching the blessed popular uprising inside our occupied territory, that this intifadah is for all the Palestinian people and the living expression of the will of all Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory. We said yes to the PLO's leadership, and no to any alternate leadership that might be brought by Rabin or others inside the occupied territory. We said no to the proposed Israeli plan for holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza the moment it was announced because it aims at creating this alternative leadership. We also called for rejecting this plan so that we will not waste time without achieving any of our national objectives.

Concluding his address, the commander in chief said: Your realistic vision and general awareness of the various aspects of the Palestine question as well as your concern to build a strong movement and organization that can assume its national and pan-Arab responsibilities, are your path to victory.

PLO's Muhammad Milhim Laments Arab Aid Levels

PM1810153589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 89 p 4

[Report on unattributed interview with PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian Central Council meetings started in Baghdad yesterday to discuss two principal issues, namely, the intifadah and the Palestinian political position, which PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim said are always on the agenda. In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Muhammad Milhim said that the Executive Committee meetings will also be held on the sidelines of the Central Council.

Answering a question about the five points announced recently by Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), Milhim said that they are a reconfirmation of the political program announced at the [Palestine] National Council in Algiers at the end of last year. In them he tied all the loose ends with regard to the selection of the members of the delegation to the negotiations with Israel over the elections, international guarantees, and the confirmation of the PLO's role.

He added that the five points are the fixed Palestinian principles, which there are U.S. and Israeli attempts to abolish or deprive us of gradually.

He also said that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue now taking place in Tunis is also an attempt to deprive the Palestinians of the agreed principles one by one.

He said that the PLO has continued the dialogue over this period and will continue it because of its genuine approach toward peace and in order to make the U.S. and Israeli sides understand its objective, and also for the sake of international backing, especially European backing.

He added that the Palestinian initiative and the political program are the best proof of the PLO's and the Palestinian people's genuine approach which the PLO cannot transcend.

Milhim also said that the dialogue with the Americans will continue until they take a position that is not 100 percent in Israel's favor. The dialogue may stop or be postponed until the other quarters concerned with the conflict, be they European or Arab, play their role in the

peace process. The arena should not be left to Israel and the United States to single out the PLO while others act as spectators.

On the present UN General Assembly session and the results expected from it, Milhim said that the Soviet Union informed the PLO that the five major states agreed that the session be used to reactivate the situation in the Middle East toward peace, whether via joint efforts or coordination among the Security Council's five permanent member states.

He added that when the five states start to make a move at the United Nations a visit to New York by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat might be necessary.

But on the intifadah issue, Milhim said that he will submit a periodical report on it to the Central Council. He added that it has always been on the agenda of all meetings since it was launched.

On Arab aid he said that it is one of the pending issues and that some Arab brothers have not fulfilled their aid commitment and so suffering has increased and so has the need for aid.

He also said that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for backing the kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied land was frozen as a result of the Arabs' failure to fulfill their commitments, that is, with the exception of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has continued to provide aid without interruption since the committee was set up.

He added that only a few Arab and Islamic summit resolutions have been implemented—which means more suffering, especially with regard to medical, social, agricultural, and educational establishments, since the Palestinian people have started a boycott and are dependent on their agricultural and industrial production, and that requires aid to enable our people to achieve self-sufficiency and dispense with Israeli products.

Milhim spoke about the steadfast city of Bayt Sahur and said that the PLO has sent an appeal from Tunis to all international establishments regarding the confiscation of the possessions of the residents there instead of the taxes imposed by the Israeli authorities.

He said that the taxes themselves are illegal, since the occupation authorities cannot impose taxes before they provide services for the people. He added that the only service they provide is beatings, murder, bullets, gas bombs, and explosives.

Algeria

Mubarak Praises Bendjedid in Libya Rapprochement

LD2410084389 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid received a phone call today from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. During the telephone conversation the Egyptian president expressed his satisfaction with the role the president of the Republic played in the rapprochement between Egypt and Libya. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak also praised President Chadli Bendjedid's initiative which prepared a fraternal atmosphere and conditions for neighborliness between the fraternal Libyan and Egyptian peoples.

Foreign Minister Praises Agreement on Lebanon

LD2410152489 Algiers APS in English 1123 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 24/10/89 (APS)—Minister of foreign affairs, Ahmed Sayed Ghazali, expressed satisfaction about the agreement signed Monday in al-Ta'if by the members of the Lebanese parliament, considering however that a lot remains to be done before reaching a last peace in Lebanon. In a statement to Channel III of the national radio, Ghazali, who is in Jeddah where he will take part in the official end of the meeting of Lebanese parliamentarians, indicated that the atmosphere was rather "optimistic" underlining that the 14-year-old conflict and the deadly escalation it is witnessing sinch March 14 make difficult the restoration of peace in Lebanon. However, Ghazali affirmed, "It is an extraordinary result which the Lebanese members of parliament have reached for the first time in the history of the Lebanese conflict in their overwhelming majority an agreement in principle on fundamental questions of political and institutional reforms and are now on the way to the reestablishment of understanding between all the children of Lebanon."

Egypt

Archbishop Desmond Tutu Continues Visit

Meets Butrus Ghali

NC2310185189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1436 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who is visiting from Egypt 23-25 October at the Egyptian Government's invitation.

Ghali said Egypt welcomes the great African guest and unbending struggler for freedom. Egypt, he said, stresses the great significance of Archbishop Tutu's visit to Egypt and his meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who chairs the OAU.

Dr Ghali noted that Egypt considers the people's struggle in southern Africa to eliminate racial segregation the battle of all of Africa, and that Egypt employs all its potentials for the support of the African majority's struggle to achieve freedom, justice, and equality and for the release of all political detainees, foremost of whom is struggler Nelson Mandela.

Ghali said Egypt appeals to the free people of the world and all countries to pursue their campaign to impose sanctions on the racist Pretoria regime until this regime responds to the international community's wish for a society dominated by democracy and equality.

Comments After Meeting Ghali

NC2310201189 Cairo MENA in English 1543 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 23 (MENA)—Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the International African Churches Council, underlined the importance of continuing sanctions imposed on South Africa until the government of De Klerk fulfills its promises. He described the situation in South Africa as very dangerous.

In statements to the press following his meeting today with Dr Butrus Ghali, state minister for foreign affairs, Tutu said that President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as current chairman of the Organization of African Unity was capable of playing this role with the world community. Tutu said that he will discuss during his meeting with President Mubarak numerous issues of joint interest topping which restoration of peace in Sudan and Ethiopia and the situation in South Africa.

He added that he will discuss with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat with whom he is to meet later today a number of issues concerning justice and peace as well as respect of human rights.

Meets PLO's 'Arafat

MB2310123189 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2118 GMT 23 Oct 89

[SAPA PR Wire Service; issued by Church of the Province]

[Text] Cairo [dateline as received]—Archbishop Desmond Tutu, visiting Egypt in his capacity as president of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is to meet President Husni Mubarak, chairman of the Organization of African Unity, tomorrow (Tuesday) for discussions on Africa's problems.

Archbishop Tutu, who arrived in Cairo last night (Sunday night), today met the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, who is in Cairo to discuss Egypt's efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Earlier today, the archbishop met the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali. The archbishop is also due to visit the Sudan and Ethiopia later this week as a part of his AACC presidential duties.

Archbishop Tutu, since being elected as president of the AAC in 1987, has focused church efforts on the promotion of human rights, justice and peace throughout the continent.

On his arrival in Cairo, he praised President Mubarak for his current efforts to promote a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians.

During the meeting with Mr 'Arafat this afternoon, he and the archbishop discussed the situation of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories, the similarities between the plight of the Palestinians and that of black South Africans, and the recognition by Mr 'Arafat and his organisation of Israel's right to exist.

Archbishop Tutu asked for the meeting to be arranged after Mr Ghali had suggested the possibility.

The AACC is hoping that in the Sudan, which is in a state of civil war, the archbishop will be able to exchange views with local leaders on how the country could return to peace.

During today's meeting with Mr 'Arafat, the archbishop raised the perception prevalent in the West that the Sudanese conflict is strictly along Christian-Muslim lines.

The primary reason for the visit to Ethiopia is to attend in Addis Ababa a regular meeting of the AAC's executive committee. However, the AACC hopes Archbishop Tutu will also be able to discuss the war situation there with the local leaders.

Comments on Mubarak Talks

NC2410181989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the International African Churches Council, and his accompanying delegation at the presidential palace in Heliopolis this morning.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for political affairs, was present at the meeting.

Archbishop Tutu described his meeting with President Husni Mubarak as very cordial. After the meeting, the archbishop said that he appreciates Mubarak's efforts to resolve the Palestinian problem and achieve reconciliation with Libya.

The archbishop said that Africa cannot afford many disputes on its soil, noting that efforts to remove the causes of dispute are in the interest of Africa.

Archbishop Tutu said: We appreciate President Mubarak's support for the struggle for freedom and liberation in South Africa. [passage omitted]

Leaves Cairo for Khartoum

NC2510073089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chairman of the African Council of Churches and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, left Cairo for Khartoum this morning after a 3-day visit during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Tutu also held talks with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on several topics, including apartheid in South Africa.

Tutu will travel to Ethiopia after his visit to Sudan.

Mubarak Sends Messages to African Leaders

NC2510182089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Munir Zahran and Sami Haybah, ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry, left Cairo this afternoon on a tour of the three Horn of Africa countries: Somalia, Ethiopia, and Djibouti.

They are conveying messages from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to these countries' leaders on the situation in the region and Egypt's bilateral relations with the three countries.

Mubarak, Delegation Return From Baghdad

NC2610060389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Baghdad tonight after participating in today's celebrations marking the reconstruction of al-Faw.

President Mubarak took part also in the Arab Cooperation Council summit held in conjunction with these celebrations.

Mubarak Meets British Labor Party Official

NC2310190589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Gerald Koffman, foreign minister in the British shadow government, expressed the Labor Party's appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's efforts to achieve a settlement in the Middle East. He noted that President Mubarak always adopts constructive and bold stands toward efforts to reach a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

In a statement after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Koffman praised Egypt's constructive position in this respect and affirmed that the Egyptian 10-point plan enjoys the support of the British Labor

Party. He said the obstacle to this plan is the Likud Party and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, a very small sector in Israel.

He pointed out that the most important impression he received after his meeting with President Mubarak is the need to overcome these obstacles, not with a view to defeating Shamir but to convince him that the best way to deal with this issue is by considering President Mubarak's plan as a basis.

'Abd-al-Majid Satisfied With Lebanon Accord

NC2410183289 Cairo MENA in English 1412 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 24 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today expressed Egypt's profound satisfaction over the Lebanese deputies endorsement of the national reconciliation document and their agreement on Lebanon's future approach towards peace, stability, unity, and reconstruction. He voiced Egypt's congratulations to the people of Lebanon and their deputies who made such a major achievement.

Egypt, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said, appeals to all Lebanese parties to show a spirit of responsibility and do their utmost with determination and goodwill to implement the items of the document in letter and spirit as it reflects the free will of the people of Lebanon. Dr 'Abd al-Majid hailed the role played by the Arab tripartite committee noting that thanks to the committee's sincere efforts and farsightedness, it was possible to reach that agreement.

He also paid tribute to efforts made by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to secure success for the tripartite committee's task. Dr 'Abd al-Majid appealed to all regional and international powers to support the efforts being exerted to implement the agreement in order to restore Lebanon's sovereignty over all constitutional establishments as well as to achieve peace, stability, security, and unity in Lebanon.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Welcomes Accord

NC2510095889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has welcomed the agreement on the new national charter reached by Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if which marks the beginning of a return of amity and peace to that bleeding Arab country.

The newspaper stresses that the agreement has been welcomed around the world, while reaction to it within Lebanon has been mixed. Most Lebanese support the agreement, with the notable exception of General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, who threatened revenge. This casts doubt over the ability of the deputies to implement any agreement.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on the Maronite deputies to play a key role in convincing Gen 'Awn that they, acting according to their national conscience, chose to give peace a chance rather than to allow the destructive war to continue.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies is the last legitimate institution still functioning in that tormented country. It stresses the need for the Lebanese and the Arabs to support the agreement so that Lebanon may again regain its freedom, dignity, and independence.

'Abd al-Majid Speech Marks United Nations Day

NC2510212489 Cairo MENA in English 2042 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, Oct 25 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid expressed here tonight his hope that the United Nations would be able to provide an effective contribution to moving the Middle East efforts forward, especially insofar as regards recovery of the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian issue, said Dr 'Abd-al-Majid in a speech marking the United Nations' day, is the core of the conflict in the region.

There will be neither peace nor security, unless a just and lasting solution is established to put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people, said the speech, read out on Dr 'Abd-al-Majid's behalf at a ceremony of the Egyptian United Nations Society by Assistant Foreign Minister 'Aziz Sayif-al-Nasr.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid called upon the United Nations and the international community in general to shoulder responsibility for this problem in implementation of United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions in this regard.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed United Nations' accomplishments and activities in various fields.

He underlined the importance of orchestrated efforts to solve problems imperiling world security and stability, especially problems pertaining to developing countries' economic conditions.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid cited the important September 29 speech of President Husni Mubarak before the 44th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which carried Egypt's full support of the United Nations and adherence to its charter, objectives, and principles. [passage omitted]

Ghali Meets Belgian Jewish Secular Center Head

NC2310184189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1511 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received today Mr David Sekond, honorary chairman of the Belgian Jewish Secular Center.

They reviewed the most significant developments in the Palestinian issue and Egypt's active diplomatic efforts to open a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to continue the Middle East peace process.

Ghali stressed the importance of intensifying the efforts of all peace movements, both inside and outside Israel, to influence Israeli public opinion to urge the Israeli Government to abandon its intransigent stands that impede the peace process in the region.

Chairman Issues Statement

NC2310201989 Cairo MENA in English 1537 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 23 (MENA)—David Sekond, the honorary chairman of the Belgian Secular Jewish Council, said that the Jews in diaspora should pressure Israeli public opinion to urge the Israeli Government to change its stand vis-a-vis the Palestinians.

The Jewish official who is on a visit here underscored the right of the Palestinians to establish a Palestinian state next to the state of Israel, adding that this would be for the welfare of Israel in the first place and for the welfare of all the Arab countries in the Middle East area.

He said that the Belgian Secular Jewish Council encourages Egypt's efforts for securing peace affirming that they as Jews in diaspora will work for the sake of peace in the earliest possible time as "time is working against peace."

Ghali Comments on Goals of Egyptian Diplomacy

JN2510153989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has made the following statement to our radio:

[Begin Ghali recording] The objective of Egyptian diplomacy is to get the Palestine question out of the stalemate. This is because the stalemate does not help bring about a settlement of this issue, and it contributes to continuing Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We believe that through making contacts and encouraging the dialogue between Palestinian people on the one hand and the Israeli Government on the other, we can begin a new move which will be helpful in the coming stage, the stage of the international conference. Those contacts between the two sides—that is, the Palestinian people on the one hand, and the Israeli Government on the other—will help find a solution to holding elections. These elections will determine the formation of the Palestinian delegation or leadership that is capable of negotiating in the forthcoming conference.

In addition, the Egyptian Government does not act in the name of Palestinians, but there is continuous contact with the PLO and the fraternal Arab states, particularly Jordan, in the hope that this move will lead to the desired objective. [end recording]

Ghali Welcomes Commonwealth Statement on RSA

NC2410181589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, welcomes the Commonwealth heads of government statement on South Africa. He said Egypt supports the international community's continuation of imposing and tightening sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime.

In a statement today, Ghali said Egypt believes pressure should be increased on this regime to make it give up its inhuman practices and until other political detainees, foremost of whom is African struggler Nelson Mandela, are freed and the ban on political parties is lifted.

Ghali affirmed that Egypt will continue to support and back the South African people's struggle to establish a society dominated by democracy, justice, and freedom.

Ghali Meets Beninese Presidential Envoy

NC2310181389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received today Karim Alefo Waselva, Beninese President Kerekou's adviser and personal envoy. Waselva brings a written message from the Beninese president for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

They discussed the latest developments in Africa and the diplomataic moves to settle inter-African disputes.

They also discussed current efforts to arrange for a meeting and a dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Usamah al-Baz Conveys Message to Jordanian King

NC2510204289 Cairo MENA in English 1646 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 25 (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned home from Amman this afternoon following a short visit to Jordan.

Dr al-Baz conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan dealing with efforts currently exerted to activate the peace process in the Middle East.

Information Minister on Islamic Media Cooperation

NC2310123989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo from Jeddah early this morning. Al-Sharif had been in Saudi Arabia for the past 4 days to participate in the meetings of the committee established during the first conference of Islamic countries' information ministers.

Upon his return, Al-Sharif said that the committee discussed the modernization of Islamic information strategy. He noted that Egypt submitted a working paper on modernizing the Islamic information system which will form the basis of the discussions at the next meeting of the information ministers of Islamic countries, due to take place in Cairo in late November or early December 1990.

The information minister said that the committee also discussed Egypt's proposal for developing the Islamic Radio Association and the ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY, which are affiliated to the Islamic Conference Organization.

Concerning the Islamic Radio Association, Al-Sharif stated that Egypt is producing a program which has been widely acclaimed as the greatest achievement in the history of Islamic information work, namely the teaching of Arabic to English speakers. Al-Sharif said a great deal of work has already been accomplished and the first two installments of this program will be ready for release in November.

Al-Sharif also noted that MENA will cooperate with the ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY. This will allow MENA to carry news about Islamic countries.

Economy Minister Leaves for Visit to Tunisia

NC2410104389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, left Cairo for Tunis this morning for an official visit to Tunisia which will last several days.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Mustafa said that he will lead the Egyptian delegation to the 46th meeting of the Arab League's economic and social council which will be held in the Tunisian capital 25-27 October.

Petroleum Minister Leaves on Visit to Italy

NC2510140989 Cairo MENA in English 1348 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 25 (MENA)—A delegation led by Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil left for Milan today on a four-day visit to Italy.

In a pre-departure statement, the minister said he will meet during the visit with a number of Italian officials in the oil industry to explore the possibility of setting up joint cooperation programmes.

Italian companies' investments in exploration for oil in Egypt amount to 300 million U.S. dollars per year, he further said.

PLO Executive Committee Official in Cairo

NC2310193789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Cairo from Kuwait today.

It is noteworthy that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is currently visiting Egypt.

Interior Minister Confers With Fatah's Khalaf

NC2410131389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1113 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr last night received Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the official in charge of the unified security of the PLO.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues of concern to Palestinians residing in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, Fatah Representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah, and the Palestinian ambassador's deputy also attended the meeting.

Zaki Badr Testifies in 'Egypt's Revolution Case'

NC2510203089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1917 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—The higher state security court held a session today to try the defendants in the Egypt's Revolution case. The court listened to the 2-hour testimony of Interior Minister Zaki Badr.

Badr said in his testimony that the first time he received information about Egypt's Revolution Organization was when defendant Ahmad 'Isam submitted information on the organization to the State Security Intelligence Department. The department, he added, investigated and scrutinized the report submitted by 'Isam.

The interior minister affirmed that the U.S. Embassy has no connection whatsoever with the investigations into the case. The U.S. Embassy, he said, did not receive any information about the organization, nor did the Egyptian Interior Ministry provide the embassy with any information or reports on the organization.

Regarding the travel of defendant Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir [son of late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir] after Ahmad 'Isam reported to the State Security Intelligence Department about the organization, Badr said there had been no legal warrant preventing him from traveling abroad. Therefore, Badr added, his travel was normal as in the case of any ordinary citizen and furthermore the investigation into the report of Ahmad 'Isam had not yet been completed.

The interior minister pointed out that there is no agreement on security cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

He said: We are working hard to prevent the entry of arms, explosives, or the like into Egypt. However, there are means by which such weapons can be brought in, for example by diplomats, who are not searched. Besides, there might be certain loopholes, through which weapons may enter the country. Furthermore, there are plastic weapons that cannot be detected by modern equipment but can only be discovered by manual search.

He noted that prison regulations and rules are being applied to all prisoners. He affirmed that all prison regulations are applied to prisoners and those detained pending trial.

He described Egypt's Revolution Organization as a criminal one that aims to commit acts of murder and assassination. He disclosed that there is security cooperation between Egypt and a number of countries, some articles of which stipulate the training of Egyptian cadres on combating aircraft hijacking, and terrorism, dealing with international organizations, and combating drugs.

The interior minister denied that there is any written agreement on security cooperation between Egypt and the United states and noted that only verbal agreements exist between the two countries. He also denied the existence of security cooperation between Egypt and Israel.

Badr pointed out in his testimony that Egyptian authorities arrest anyone who violates Egyptian laws and put him on trial, whether he is Egyptian, Israeli, or any other nationality.

Concluding his testimony, the interior minister said he is proud to stand and testify before the Egyptian judiciary, out of his belief that this is a patriotic duty that he will not hesitate to undertake. He expressed his pleasure to contribute to the clarification of facts to reveal the truth in this case.

Four of the defendants requested that they be transferred to another prison and to be isolated from threats by the organization's leader, Mahmud Nur-al-Din. The four defendants are: Ahmad 'Isam-al-Din, Muhiy-al-Din 'Adli, Jamal 'Abd-al-Hafiz, and Ahmad 'Ali.

The defense requested testimony from former Foreign Ministers Isma'il Fahmi, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, and Dr Murad Ghalib; former Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad; Assistant President of the Republic Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah; and former National Security Adviser Amin Huwaydi.

The court adjourned the hearing until 8 November and ordered the prosecution to call Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil to testify.

AL-WAFD Views Egyptian-Libyan Relations

JN2210135089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Oct 89 p 5

[Political analysis: "The Secrets of Egyptian-Libyan Reconciliation" by Ayman Nur]

[Text] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's arrival in Egypt for the first time in 16 years and President Mubarak's return visit the next day was not so much a surprise as it was consistency with a new vision and course whose earliest signs appeared in the Arab reconciliation summit in Casablanca at the end of last May.

After concluding the visit, for which observers waited long enough, and which is considered the first practical step down the road of Egyptian-Libyan reconciliation after the summit, the importance of searching for objective reasons for this closeness, which emerged suddenly without any earlier indications, surfaces.

It is clear that the broken relations and closed borders between the two countries following the Egyptian-Israeli closeness, and their repercussions, were for only one specific reason. The borders were recently reopened for many reasons, but definitely not because of the disappearance of the major reason for which the borders were closed and relations broken in the first place.

The simple explanation some might resort to is that Col al-Qadhdhafi, as other Arab leaders like him, did not recover quickly from the shock of al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. He could not immediately digest the vision of peace which captured al-Sadat in 1977. Al-Qadhdhafi is not much different in this respect from the Syrian president, the Jordanian monarch, the Palestinian leader, and the majority of Arab leaders, except regarding the time factor.

It seems that this explanation, despite its simplicity, is not enough to provide a sufficient response if we take into consideration Col al-Qadhdhafi's characteristics and the features of his stand as one of the most extreme Arab opposers of, and pioneer of fiery and harsh statements on Egypt's return.

Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Egypt did not take place in Cairo, which has the Israeli flag fluttering over its embassy, nor

in Alexandria, which has the same flag fluttering over the Israeli consulate there—Al-Qadhdhafi asked that the meeting take place in Ra's al-Hikmah, or al-Sallum, or Marsa Matruh. Nevertheless, Col al-Qadhdhafi would not have taken this step, despite the pro forma reservations over the location, without having deeper and more influencing reasons than merely his personal mood or his awakening after 13 years of slumber to the importance of Egypt's Arab role and the necessity to overcome the Arab crisis. He claims that the real and direct reason for this Arab crisis is the U.S.-Israeli-Sadatist formulation approved at Camp David, or "David's stable" as Al-Qadhdhafi liked to call it.

The explanation for this big change in Col al-Qadhdhafi's stand cannot be used as a complete explanation, but it can be used to his benefit to define one aspect which led him to make all these direct concessions without achieving any of the conditions he set during the past 12 years, the first of which was canceling Camp David and kicking the Israeli ambassador out of Cairo.

It is clear that the course of Libyan policy during the last year—starting with Chad and ending with the secret Libyan efforts for reconciliation with Britain, and decreasing tensions with the United States—affirms that there is a new trend and serious attempt to come out of Libya's isolation from the Arab, African, and international realms.

Here, we should take into consideration the statements made by Libya last Monday—the first day of the Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi summit—in which it condemned the kidnapping of two of the International Red Cross employees in Lebanon at the beginning of this month. Concerning this issue, an official source from the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison (the Libyan Foreign Ministry) mentioned that the kidnapping of Emmanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez does not serve any humanitarian cause or goal, and deserves condemnation. The source affirmed Libya's condemnation of all forms of terrorism, including hijacking planes. He also pointed out that Col al-Qadhdhafi calls for the release of all the hostages and kidnapped people in Lebanon.

Within the same framework, we should also take into consideration the visit by Major 'Abd-al-salam Jallud to Rome at the beginning of last summer and the meetings he held with Italian officials and Pope John Paul II.

What cannot be forgotten in this field is the stand from which Libya recently dealt with General Michel 'Awn's government in Lebanon. It shattered the stand of its own ally, Syria, regarding this government. At the beginning of this year, Libya clearly changed its stand toward the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat. Its stand on the last Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions was positive. 'Arafat also succeeded in creating a clear-cut distinction between Al-Qadhdhafi's stand toward the PLO on the one hand, and the dissidents on the other, who enjoy Damascus' support.

In the same vein of abandoning the policies agreed on with Damascus, its traditional ally, Libya's ties with Iraq have witnessed a remarkable improvement, marked by the arrival in Baghdad late last year of Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi and also by the exchange of visits by official and popular delegations on official and national occasions in the two countries.

This rapprochement has strengthened Baghdad's desire to isolate Syria totally by removing Libya from the Syrian camp. Besides, Col al-Qadhdhafi has recently realized that the Lebanese forces that he has supported financially and militarily have neither achieved his aspirations nor advanced his policies. He has realized that these forces, although financed by Libya, were carrying out and serving the policies of others.

If these were some of the factors that were to play an important role in changing some of the Libyan assumptions, positions, and firm alliances forged during the past decade, other factors also played a role. Of these, one important factor pertains to the changes that have taken place in Sudan. These changes convinced Libya it was impossible to deal with the new authority there without a minimum level of understanding with the Egyptian Government. Another factor concerns the spirit of international detente and the USSR's abandonment of its radical policies, not to mention Iran's renunciation, after Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election as president, of its revolutionary role and of its alliances with the forces advocating this role.

And finally comes the exacerbation of the internal Libyan crisis as a key factor and highly significant cause behind all these changes. The mistakes and negative signs that have begun to surface in Libyan society—because the theories drawn up by Col al-Qadhdhafi have not fulfilled the aspirations of the Libyan citizen—have manifested themselves in the decline in popularity of the people's committees formed by Col al-Qadhdhafi. This prompted Al-Qadhdhafi to propose numerous changes to the experiment. In fact, Al-Qadhdhafi has recently announced the need for these committees to correct their direction. Al-Qadhdhafi said recently that experience has shown that some of his ideas were not suitable for Libyan society, because Libyan society is plagued with all the ills of the third world and that the experiment would have succeeded had it been implemented in Switzerland or Canada.

There is no doubt that the internal crisis and the emergence of some fundamentalist currents of a disapproving nature are the outcome of the state of frustration resulting from the futility of theories, ideas, and practices. All this gave Col al-Qadhdhafi no choice but to launch a new internal and external policy and to reformulate his positions and options to find a way out of this crisis.

We have now tackled the objective reasons behind the change in the Libyan leadership's positions and behind its yielding the maximum number of concessions to

secure a normalization of Egyptian-Libyan ties. Now, our task is to consider the reasons that prompted the Egyptian leadership to take part in this adventure, or in other words to walk this hard path. It goes without saying that the difficulty of walking this path lies in the fact that Cairo has had bitter experiences with Col al-Qadhdhafi's Jamahiriyah.

This series of bitter experiences has always been a reminder, calling for extreme caution when dealing with the normalization of Egyptian-Libyan ties. The 20 years of Col al-Qadhdhafi's rule in Libya witnessed dramatic events and major shifts in Egyptian-Libyan relations. Al-Qadhdhafi spent a year dealing with Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, his father figure and spiritual mentor. Then, he spent 7 turbulent years dealing with Al-Sadat and another 12 years of total estrangement, including 8 years during President Mubarak's rule.

Inheriting these differences and all those long years of propaganda, political, security, and even military battles, and Col al-Qadhdhafi's nature itself, have formed a great obstacle against calls for unity or any other calls made by Col al-Qadhdhafi in the past few years—calls which have gone unanswered by the Egyptian leadership. The past few years have proved that the current Egyptian leadership is not interested in the political adventures and theatrical charades that the late President al-Sadat was fond of and which he used to call "electric shocks."

The particular nature of the current Egyptian political leadership has dictated a rational approach in reformulating and mending Egyptian-Arab relations. Indeed, it succeeded in the past few years in accomplishing that task in its own way without surprises or shocks and according to a logical sequence of events and positions. In fact, all the events, positions, and developments in Egypt's foreign relations were foreseen and expected by those who monitor and observe Egyptian foreign policy, beginning with Egyptian reconciliation with countries all over the Arab world in the past few years and ending with the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

It seems that the first surprises, departing from that rule, were the restoration of Egyptian-Libyan relations, opening the borders, and allowing movement between the two countries with the use of identity cards—a measure which has not yet been implemented among the ACC countries or the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] member states.

On the reasons for this development, a high-level diplomatic source says: Before the Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi summit, the Libyan leadership demanded a declaration of the achievements and gains which the two peoples would feel and which were to be announced after the first meeting. It laid down its own concept of these gains and asserted that the most important of them was to allow travel between the two countries by using identity cards. Egypt realized that this request was an improvement in the Libyan leadership's thinking and an acceptable alternative solution to the unity plan which the Libyan leadership had always requested from Egypt.

The same source adds: Egypt believed this step would in some way compensate the two peoples for what they suffered during the years of Egyptian-Libyan estrangement and for the hardship they suffered when they had to travel from and to Egypt via Malta, Cyprus, or Athens.

The source adds: During the few months after the [Casablanca] summit and after the decision to open borders between the two countries last summer, there was a tourism and economic boom in Egypt because large numbers of Libyan tourists traveled to Alexandria and Cairo. This benefited tourism greatly, stimulating the stagnant local market, and reducing the dollar's exchange rate in the black market because of transfers made by Libyans and Egyptians working in Libya.

Using the same approach adopted by that diplomatic source to understand and analyze this rapid development in Egyptian-Libyan relations, we can also detect a number of political and economic causes. The first is that there is a prevailing trend inside the "kitchen" of Egyptian foreign policy which believes that strengthening Egyptian-Libyan relations will achieve a goal laid down in Egyptian foreign policy during the past few years—that is, to penetrate Western groupings and alliances.

To be more precise, 3 years ago that trend embodied a feeling of apprehension about the policy, being implemented all around Egypt, of building regional groupings and blocs, which would confine Egypt to the Nile Valley—whether this was the aim of those groupings and blocs or whether it was the result dictated, unintentionally, by events. As examples of this, they cited the Gulf Cooperation Council in the east, the fertile crescent or "Greater Syria" plan in the northeast, and the rapprochement among the Arab Maghreb states in the west.

After succeeding in penetrating the alliances of the Arab east, Egypt had to penetrate the blocs of the Arab west, which was impossible without passing through Libya first and reaching a minumum level of understanding with it. By virtue of its history, geography, and special capabilities, Egypt can play the role of a bridge between Arab groupings in the east and the west, including of course the ACC, which it leads. This would give a greater weight to Egypt, which has just returned to its Arab nation after years of estrangement.

Among the other reasons that prompted the Egyptian leadership to accept this swift development in the Egyptian-Libyan relations was Egypt's desire to crown its victories in the field of foreign policy, specifically in its Arab relations, by making the latest and most vicious hawk, and leader of "the school of steadfastness and confrontation" return to Egypt in a way that suggests he is very eager to do so.

The Egyptian policy, which is the leader of Arab rationalism, or the "doves" as some would say, realizes that the recent tangible developments in the thinking and positions of the Libyan regime are worth encouragement and support in order to drive Libya out of the fold of hawks and into the fold of doves, to which the Arab countries, including the comrades of steadfastness and confrontation, rushed one after the other.

On the other hand, rapprochement with Libya, the firm adversary of the West and the United States, supports Egypt's political and economic position in its dealings with the United States in particular. This has been proved by the U.S. threats and French and British anger that appeared after the date for the Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi meeting in Marsa Matruh was announced. In a very clear way and without feeling ashamed, the U.S. Administration, through the State Department spokesman, announced in a news conference broadcast by all world radio and television stations that the United States opposes the intimate meeting between Al-Qadhdhafi and Mubarak. It added: "We denounce this rapprochement based on our mistrust of Al-Qadhdhafi and on information that makes it clear that he has not abandoned his policy of conducting and encouraging terrorism." The British press played the same tune and acted on the same basis. France, through its news agency, leaked news on the day of the Marsa Matruh meeting that Col al-Qadhdhafi had begun a new adventure in Africa. The agency carried a report saying that Al-Qadhdhafi dispatched 700 armed soldiers and a number of tanks to Somalia. Commenting on the report, the agency said that these troops went to interfere in the affairs of a foreign country and that Al-Qadhdhafi has not abandoned his policy and dreams of imposing his authority by military force.

These U.S. and French reactions, unleashed hours after the Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi meeting, show the extent of U.S. and Western excitement. They realize the important implications of the meeting and its great effect on rearranging the criteria and balances of power in the region, the outline of which is usually drawn by the United States, which does not accept any departure from its outline.

We now return to the reasons that prompted the Egyptian leadership to embark on these comprehensive steps toward normalizing Egyptian-Libyan relations. The last, and one of the most important reasons—if not the most important one—is Egypt's internal economic situation. It is no secret that there have recently been serious efforts to reduce military spending. The Libyan-Egyptian rapprochement will reduce, to the minimum, spending on the western borders, to which large amounts of troops and equipment were sent during Al-Sadat's rule.

Moreover, the resumption of relations and the free movement between Egypt and Libya opens a new market for the Egyptian labor force and it could also lead to a temporary easing of the internal unemployment crisis resulting from the return of thousands of Egyptian workers from Iraq.

The surprise about the Egyptian-Libyan relations lies in the rapid disappearance of their differences and the early decisions to reopen the border and permit the free movement of labor and so forth, facilities which have far exceeded those between the Arab Ccooperation Council states and the Arab Maghreb Union members.

Therefore, the surprise was in the important, rapid normalization steps which were taken, not in the reconciliation as such. The reconciliation attempts began a year ago, at the end of October 1988 to be exact. It was agreed then to stop the media campaigns between the two countries. Then followed a period of exchanging personal messages explaining the two sides' differences on three major issues:

1. The need for Libya to respect Egypt's internal affairs.

2. The rights of the Egyptian workers who were expelled from Libya.

3. Libya's continuous attack on Egypt and its president and its support for certain political and sabotage organizations inside Egypt whose association with Libya became known later in court cases.

The Egyptian and Libyan messages were relayed by a special United Arab Emirates envoy who visited Cairo and Tripoli during a tour between the two states which lasted 4 days. This first attempt succeeded in stopping the media campaigns and calming the political atmosphere between the two states. Another mediation attempt was then initiated by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Following the Casablanca summit, Palestinian mediation succeeded in concluding an agreement between Cairo and Tripoli concerning the dates and agendas of the Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi summits in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq.

During the repeated secret meetings between Egyptian and Libyan military delegations, especially the one in late December 1988, a surprise occurred which threatened to torpedo all efforts and take us back to square one. The Libyan military delegation led by Colonel 'Abd-al-Fattah Yunus—of Egyptian origin, who served as commander of the eastern front—surprised the Egyptian side by the accurate information he presented during this meeting about the "Red Rose Operation." This was the operation that the American forces were scheduled to carry out against a chemical warfare weapons plant in Libya in late 1987.

A final word: With the return of normal relations between Egypt and Libya, the language of interests has triumphed over the language of emotions in politics.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Shamir's 'Bellicosity'

NC2510093689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM stresses the gravity of the situation in the Middle East in the wake of Israel's recurring rejection of all attempts to promote the peace efforts in the area. The newspaper notes that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has rejected all such attempts, including those presented by the United States, prompting Washington to hint that it would abandon its current efforts.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that this is the first time that the United States has tasted what appears to be the bitterness of direct frustration. While the other parties insist on continuing the march to corner Israel, we find the United States flinching after its first setback and threatening to discontinue its peace efforts.

AL-AHRAM says that the United States, as a partner in the peace process, should vigorously protest over Israel's bellicosity as expressed by Shamir, rather than discontinue its peace efforts. It should also work with the parties concerned to create a steadfast front to break the Israeli intransigence, before both the open and the hidden discontent result in new conflicts.

AL-AHRAM asks: What would have happened if the absolute rejection had repeatedly come from the Palestinians and not from Israel? Would the United States have shown the same great patience?

AL-AKHBAR Wants 'Unified Arab Strategy'

NC2510092289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has called on the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] meeting in Baghdad today to join Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in drawing up a unified Arab strategy to confront Shamir's maneuvers and his obstruction of every effort toward peace. It has also called on the Arab League states to play a significant part in this strategy.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that when the weapon of Arab solidarity was used in the past, the Arabs achieved a lot and proved their effectiveness on the international scene.

AL-AKHBAR says it is about time that the Arabs used this strong and effective weapon to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their legitimate rights and confront the ridiculous and unreasonable intransigence of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who has foiled all efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Shamir counts on the fact that Washington favors Israel over the 21 Arab states combined.

AL-AKHBAR calls on the entire Arab world to adopt a serious and firm stand that would serve as a warning to all concerned that they cannot deal with the Arab states separately because the issue affects the dignity of the entire nation.

Israelis Peddling Counterfeit Currency Apprehended

JN2510211389 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 23 Oct 89 p 1

[By Madani Salih]

[Text] Security organs have apprehended an Israeli gang peddling counterfeit dollars in the Egyptian markets.

Elia Ibrahim Natai, owner of a restaurant in Haifa, and Walid Labib, owner of an insurance company in Nazareth, were arrested while peddling counterfeit currency in Port Said's commercial area.

Port Said intelligence men arrested an Israeli tourist named Ya'cub Koheh while trying to change a 20-dollar bill that turned out to be counterfeit.

The Port Said prosecuter's office decided to release the Israeli tourists and to withhold their passports.

Port Said tourism police began monitoring the movements of the Israeli tourists and conducting investigations to apprehend those attempting to peddle counterfeit foreign currency.

World Bank Asked To Ease Pressure on Egypt

JN2410171489 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Oct 89 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] I would like to remind the World Bank delegation which is currently holding negotiations in Egypt that the economic crisis is invading the whole world. It is enough to mention that the United States itself has officially announced that the deficit in its trade balance has risen by 31 percent.

The inflation rate has also risen in many countries, whether in Europe, Africa, Asia, or Latin America. In Brazil, it has reached 980 percent, in Argentina 388 percent, and in Yugoslavia 243 percent. The country registering the lowest inflation rate in the world is Japan, where the inflation rate is only 1 percent.

Therefore, the efforts Egypt is making in economic reform should be well understood by the World Bank. The World Bank should attempt to move away from the policy of imposing its opinion or putting pressure on us because we do not accept that the [World] Bank or the IMF or anyone else impose any type of opinion on us. As we implement the economic reform programs, we take into very careful consideration the social dimensions, especially since the results of these reforms have become clear during the past months, compared to many other countries which could not move one step forward.

The state is concerned with protecting the interests of the vast majority of citizens. Moreover, it is responsible for achieving economic and social security for them and their children. Consequently, the alternative will undoubtedly be greater security.

I believe that the time has come for the World Bank to abandon its insistence on not transferring special loans from one project to another, because the simplest principles of economy say that freezing finances leads to negative results. There is over $1 billion from which we have not benefited at all as a result of the stubborness of those running the affairs of the World Bank. In fact, they themselves have not benefited from this money.

At the same time, we welcome both the World Bank delegation with open arms and a serious desire to continue the implementation of the reform programs, because we believe that the results will be beneficial to us in the final analysis. We also realize that delaying the implementation is not in the interest of our citizens, regardless of class.

The government is doing its best to increase exports abroad. For this purpose, it held fairs and encouraged investors to set up various kinds of industries. The indicators on the decrease in government expenditures are also crystal clear and undeniable.

As for the private sector, it receives the priority attention from the state to enable it to perform its role in the best way without any obstacles, problems, or complications in opening bank credits.

Regarding the public sector, there is no room for it to lose companies anymore after the vast majority refused to bear the mistakes and shortcomings of a limited number of individuals.

In conclusion, there remains one thing to say: The World Bank is the first to know that many developing countries have stopped the economic reform program because they could not bear the burdens of implementing it. It is also the first to know that Egypt is capable of continuing in view of the presence of all the potential for success.

Proceeding from this, we want the World Bank to deal with us on this basis.

Mission Continues Talks

NC2410184389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1524 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—The World Bank mission, which is currently holding talks in Egypt under the bank's senior economist (Hanz Bakhman), continued its negotiations at the International Cooperation Ministry today.

The two sides discussed various topics, especially the Egyptian Government's recent measures to unify the exchange rate and to decrease the deficit in the state's general budget of 1989 from 16 to 13 percent.

A responsible source in the World Bank delegation praised the Egyptian Government's measures, saying they represent a sound basis and an important step toward comprehensive economic reform, which the Egyptian Government should be keen to implement so that the Egyptian economy will revive.

He noted that the discussion also included the possibility of increasing Egyptian exports so that the balance of payments deficit will decrease and Egypt will be able to win international markets, especially since it has excellent textile products, with which it can compete in international markets provided there is a genuine export policy.

The World Bank delegation's talks in Egypt are expected to last 2 weeks, during which several meetings will be held with Egyptian officials.

Finland Extends 24-Million-Mark Grant to Egypt

NC2410184689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1533 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Egypt and Finland today signed an agreement to finance the regional electrical control project of high- and medium-tension networks in the Suez Canal, Sinai, and Red Sea areas. The agreement is for a grant worth 2.5 million Finnish marks. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Finnish ambassador has disclosed that his government has agreed to extend a grant worth 24 million Finnish marks to Egypt to finance the purchase of a number of diesel power stations. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview on Regional Relations

NC2510163089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has affirmed that his meetings with President Husni Mubarak in Casablanca and later in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq have resulted in "a great and important amount of good understanding between them" on pan-Arab causes and that it has become possible for them to proceed together "hand in hand" without obstacles for the sake of Egyptian-Libyan relations in the near future and for the unity of Arab action.

In an interview with the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published Friday, Col al-Qadhdhafi noted that there is no problem whatsoever with Egypt. He said his talks with President Mubarak in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq have returned things to normal between the two countries, which represent one geographic and demographic unit.

He pointed out that his meeting with President Mubarak in Casablanca on the sidelines of the recent Arab summit

resulted in identical Egyptian and Libyan views on ways to confront future challenges, the nature of the forthcoming stage, and on the importance of the cultural battle so that Arabs may win a peaceful and prosperous future.

Al-Qadhdhafi pointed to the practical measures endorsed during his talks with President Husni Mubarak in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq in the interest of the two countries' peoples. He expressed his belief that the "practical beginning" in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq will enable the two countries to press ahead on the right track "instead of leaping over reality."

He said: We are now on our way to benefit from our past mistakes. We began to remove the obstacles, which impeded the links between the interests of the average citizens in Egypt and Libya as this will create a basic and common environment, upon which any political structure may stand.

The leader of the Libyan revolution expressed his belief that Egypt and Libya will not face great difficulties on the road to integration between them, noting the long-standing, deep, and interwoven relations between the two peoples.

He remarked that before the recent estrangement, the Egyptians preferred Libya as a work place and the Libyans preferred Egypt as a place for tourism and medical treatment and that the relations between the two peoples were strong and broad-based.

He said: If we had prevented all this during the estrangement period, it surely was an arbitrary measure. He added that, for this reason, the two countries had to begin a correct start, proceeding from the mutual interests of the two countries' peoples, to approve rules governing work, travel, and residence.

Commenting on his relations with President Mubarak, Col al-Qadhdhafi noted that he has known President Mubarak for a long time. He voiced his belief that each of them has a good impression of the other as they had cooperated during a period of brotherhood and sympathy that occurred before the recent estrangement between the two countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi said: When President Mubarak assumed responsibility under difficult Egyptian and Arab circumstances, we had a genuine desire to end all the problems that arose with Egypt due to difference of views on "the pan-Arab cause." He noted that indirect dialogue took place between him and President Mubarak through a number of envoys and intermediaries but that circumstances were not favorable [for direct talks] until they met face to face in Casablanca on the periphery of the recent emergency Arab summit.

The leader of the Libyan revolution said: It was a mistake that we initially looked upon Egypt during President Mubarak's administration as a continuation of the previous regime. Things are now clear to us and it is apparent that Egypt is in a different stage under President Mubarak's rule.

Col al-Qadhdhafi stressed the importance of his meeting with President Mubarak in Casablanca while the ties between the two countries were still broken. He said that this meeting paved the way for mutual understanding and noted that it was impossible in the climate which then governed Egyptian-Libyan relations to learn or understand the truth about issues through the media organs which were then involved in mutually hostile campaigns.

The leader of the Libyan revolution added: During my meeting with President Mubarak, I came to understand the man's worth and position. Indeed, I highly appreciated his position.

Al-Qadhdhafi explained that President Mubarak's view was that the nature of things in this age had changed, that the issue was no longer one of an enemy and of taking up arms, that agreement on higher objectives did not preclude the use of different methods to achieve them, that Arab solidarity was bound to secure the attainment of pan-Arab rights, and that the current stage was not one of wailing or shouting but one of building Arab culture. He said that President Mubarak explained that without economic, technological, and cultural excellence it would be difficult to speak of an Arab capability to confront future challenges.

Col al-Qadhdhafi affirmed that his meeting with President Mubarak in Casablanca produced a unity of views regarding the manner in which future challenges should be confronted.

He said: We discovered that insistence on maintaining the break with Egypt meant that we were helping the Israelis attain their objective of distancing the Arabs from Egypt. He emphasized that he feels that, through his meeting with President Mubarak, the Arab will triumphed despite the presence of an Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

As to the date of his next meeting with President Mubarak, Col al-Qadhdhafi said: We have agreed that we can meet at any time and under any circumstance. It is enough for us to use the telephone to decide when and where to meet.

Answering a question regarding the delay of a diplomatic exchange between Libya and Egypt, Col al-Qadhdhafi said: There has been no diplomatic representation between Egypt, Libya, and Syria since the establishment of the Federation of Arab Republics [short-lived union of Egypt, Libya, and Syria]. We have no ambassador in Damascus, and Syria has no ambassador in Libya. There are delegates at liasion bureaus in both countries. Likewise there is no diplomatic representation between Libya and Tunisia. We both have delegates who handle relations between the two capitals.

The leader of the Libyan revolution continued: I have agreed with President Mubarak to establish follow-up bureaus in Egypt and Libya whose task will be to follow up the implementation of decisions and to prepare for the meetings of joint ministerial committees. He explained that the staff of the two bureaus will comprise individuals who are authorized to follow up all bilaterial issues.

On developments in the Palestinian issue and whether, in his opinion, there is anything that should prevent a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Col al-Qadhdhafi said: The Palestinians are people seeking rights. There is nothing that should prevent them from sitting down with the Israelis for a dialogue and negotiations. It happens everywhere.

To a question on the prospects of attaining a just peace that would secure the Palestinians' national rights and establish regional stability, Col al-Qadhdhafi said he believes that the problem lies in the fact that the Israelis do not want peace. He pointed out that the Israelis were the aggressors in 1948.

Col al-Qadhdhafi added: I believe that the Israelis will fight us again and will not respond to any peace calls because war has become part of Israeli society's makeup.

On the current Arab regional groupings, Col al-Qadhdhafi affirmed his support and backing for the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], expressing his belief that they provide the Arab situation a better position. He noted in this respect that to achieve understanding between three or four Arab entities is far better than between 21 countries.

He pointed out that in any case, it is important that unity be the ultimate goal of these new entities. He said that should these entities succeed in achieving their declared programs, especially in the field of economic cooperation, they will become an important element of the Arab march for unity.

He noted that he and President Mubarak agree on the need for joint cooperation, linking the peoples' economic interests, and establishing a sound infrastructure because this is a guarantee for progress toward genuine union.

It is noteworthy that Egypt is a member of the ACC, which also comprises Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic, and that Libya is a member of UMA, which also contains Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania.

On whether the Western Sahara problem still poses an obstacle to UMA, he said that this problem has been brushed aside for the sake of a greater goal and will not represent an obstacle to this union.

The leader of the Libyan revolution asserted that the Western Sahara problem has not been resolved yet. He said: There are some fears that ignoring this problem may undermine the union plan; however, we are working to avoid this.

Al-Qadhdhafi expressed his belief that negotiation is the only way to resolve the Western Sahara problem. He added: Naturally it was sinful for an Arab to fight an Arab regardless of the reason.

He disclosed that Libya used to supply the Polisario Front with arms but it stopped doing so and asked the Polisario Front to turn to negotiations. He added that all efforts center on holding a plebiscite in the Western Sahara.

Commenting on Libya's relations with its neighbors, Col al-Qadhdhafi said there exists a new atmosphere of general reconciliation between Libya and all its neighbors.

Replying to a question on Libyan-Sudanese relations, he said the rulers of Sudan now are a group of nationalists, of which no one can doubt their affiliation or intentions.

Commenting on what had been said in the past on Libya's relations with some groups exercising terrorism in the name of revolutionary violence, Col al-Qadhdhafi said: At one stage we had supported some of these groups, without checking their goals or role. However, we stopped supporting them after we found out they practiced terrorism for the sake of terrorism and for aims unrelated to the pan-Arab cause.

On American-Libyan relations, the Libyan leader said: Nothing stands in the way of our holding a dialogue with the United States at any place they wish and we have no precondition except that the dialogue be made public. He affirmed that he does not believe in a confrontation with the United States and that he is willing to establish relations with it, based on reciprocal respect and mutual interests.

He noted that U.S. President George Bush's administration will be more reasonable than former President Ronald Reagan's administration in dealing with numerous issues, that the previous U.S. Administration thought a show of force would end them.

Commenting on Libyan-Soviet relations, Al-Qadhdhafi said that they are good and denied that Libya is now asking for new Soviet weapons. He remarked: We have enough and I believe that the current stage requires concentration on the necessities of economic progress rather than on arms purchases.

On Arab-Iranian relations, he said at the conclusion of the interview that the present circumstances dictate the existence of sound, good-neighborly ties between the Arabs and Iran. He noted that Tehran's tendency toward moderation may now contribute to a dialogue between the two sides.

Source Asserts Al-Qadhdhafi in Excellent Health

NC2410215389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2103 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—A highly knowledgeable media source has expressed surprise at a report recently published by French magazine LE POINT. According to the report, the Egyptians were surprised that President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhadi [title as received] was suffering from a pain in his hand.

The media source told a MENA correspondent in Paris that the report is completely groundless, and that President al-Qadhdhafi was in an excellent state throughout his meetings with President Mubarak, which continued in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq for 2 successive days. The source added that this was clearly reflected in television broadcasts.

The source asserted that the magazine report is completely fictitious and that no Egyptian has made a statement to that effect.

Resolution Declares 26 Oct Day of Mourning

LD2410204889 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] In order to implement the successive resolutions of the basic people's congresses convened in their ordinary sessions which were drafted by the General People's Congress in its 11th, 12th, and 14th sessions and the resolutions previous to those concerning the occupation of Libya by Italy and the historic responsibility of the latter for the heavy damages resulting from it, and an awareness of the extent of oppression and the injustice caused to the Arab Libyan people, its land and property, as well as the mistreatment of its sons causing loss of life or the exile of many of them and the seizure of their property without their committing any wrong and without justification, and in pursuance of the repeated recommendations of the brother leader of the revolution expressed in his numerous speeches, the latest of which was his address before the General People's Congress in its emergency session on Saturday, 7 October 1989.

The General People's Committee has issued a resolution with regard to considering 26 October of each year as an official day of mourning in the Great Jamahiriyah, the text of which follows:

Article 1: 26 October of each year is considered an official day of mourning in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and in expression of this, the measures explained in this resolution will be in force.

Article 2: The Green flag will be lowered at half mast in all the places defined by the resolution of the General People's Committee No 812 of 1988 and its (amendment?) as from the dawn of 26 October until the setting of the sun on that day.

Article 3: All citizens, males, females, must wear black dress throughout the above-mentioned day. If this is not possible, a black sign, which is visible to the eyes, ought to be put on one's clothes. Black signs will also be put on the public and private means of transport.

The various media will announce the necessity and the way to implement the regulations of this article by various methods and will inform the citizens of the program, conferences [words indistinct] to abide by this. The people's committees in the municipalities will be in charge of the means defined for that: supplying black signs and putting them at the disposal of the citizens free of charge and announcing the places where they can be found.

Article 4: The flights of the Libyan Arab airlines will be stopped during the whole day inside and outside the Great Jamahiriyah as from the dawn of that day until 1800 hours in the evening.

The post, telegraph, and telephone communications will also be stopped between the Great Jamahiriyah and abroad for the same duration.

Article 5: No citizen, male or female, can travel to Italy during the day of official mourning. The booking offices of the Libyan Arab airlines at home and abroad and the Arab and foreign booking offices inside Libya are prohibited to issue tickets to the citizens of the Great Jamahiriyah to travel to Italy on the above-mentioned date. The regulation also applies to the tickets for traveling by sea if the date of departure corresponds to the above-mentioned official day of mourning.

Article 6: The secretariat of mass mobilization and the various Libyan Arab media will, on the occasion of the official day of mourning mentioned in this resolution, devote and intensify their various local and external programs to discussing the meanings of that day and the reasons behind the declaration of official mourning on that day, and will focus particularly on the claims for legitimate compensation from Italy to the Great Jamahiriyah's people, clarifying the fate of the Libyans who were deported and the removal of mines which were scattered in the Libyan Arab soil, as well as handing over the maps and manuscripts which define the places where they were laid.

Article 7: The general people's qualitative committees and the general people's committees in the municipalities and the other concerned parties as well as [words indistinct] to implement this resolution and the latter will be in force as from the day it is issued and will be published in the official gazette and the various media.

UN Delegation Speaks on Definition of Terrorism

LD2110122989 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] New York, Al-Tumur [October] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Great Jamahiriyah asserted

that the consideration of the topic of terrorism and its reasons by the United Nations should be based on clear concepts and objective foundations within a sound framework without prejudice to the principles and objectives of the Charter, and that it should be free from any confusion between violence for personal reasons to realise criminal goals and the struggle of the national liberation movements in their resistance against occupation and in their legitimate conflict against all attempts of domination and tyrannical policies against other peoples.

The Libyan Arab delegation made clear, at the meetings of the Sixth Legal Committee of the United Nations which is debating the issue of holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the aim to define the concept of terrorism, that the most serious, comprehensive, and widely practiced violence is organized and programmed official terrorism which constitutes the highest degree of international terrorism conducted deliberately and arrogantly by some major countries at the international level.

He said that Great Jamahiriyah was subjected to terroristic policies and the aggression led against Great Jamahiriyah in this respect was aimed at forcing Libya to change its stance and principles supporting world liberation movements. This will not hinder Great Jamahiriyah for continuing to support and assist any act of resistance against colonialism and confrontation of attempts of domination and despotism.

The Libyan Arab delegation urged the international community to close ranks and stand as one before these challenges so as to put an end to state terrorism and to mobilize all resources to eliminate official terrorism asserting that any consideration of the problem of terrorism without dealing with state terrorism as a form of violence and blackmail will be far from the objectives of the UN Charter.

The delegation referred to the criminal acts by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands which are in violation of the principles which the United Nations is fighting for.

It said that our world is seeing the ugliest forms of terrorist crimes by the racist Zionist regime against our Arab people in occupied Palestine from murder, destitution, degrading forms of torture which show the racism of this regime and the need for international action to put an end to it.

The Libyan Arab delegation condemned the terrorist practices by the two racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa asserting the importance of confronting such acts through collective international action to stop these criminal acts which constitute official terrorism practiced before the eyes and ears of all.

Mauritania

President Departs on Official Visit to Iraq

AB2410192389 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Exceprts] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, left Nouakchott this morning for Bagdhad, Iraq. He is paying a visit to the Iraqi capital at the invitation of his brother and friend, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The head of state is accompanied by a delegation consisting notably of Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed, the minister of information. [passage omitted]

During the absence of the head of state, the conduct of day-to-day affairs of state will be effected by Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi, the minister of interior, post, and telecommunications.

Adviser to National Salvation Committee Named

LD2310051489 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] According to a decree issued this morning by the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN], Mr Mohamed Salem Ould Lakhel has been appointed adviser to the CMSN chairman and head of state. Autoprocessing Division

Morocco

Senegal President Makes Statement, Departs

LD2510175689 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Mr Abdou Diouf, the Senegalese President and current chairman of the African Socialist and Democratic Parties Association, left Rabat at noon today after a 3-day visit.

At Rabat-Sale VIP Hall, the Senegalese president gave a statement to the press in which he expressed his satisfaction with the results of this visit, during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II and attended the meetings of the Africa and Europe in 1993 Colloquium, organized by the African Socialist and Democratic Parties Association at the invitation of the Liberal National Rally. [passage omitted]

MAP, APS Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD2510135689 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 25 (MAP)—A cooperation accord was concluded here Tuesday [24 October] between the Moroccan and Algerian news agencies, "MAP" and

"APS" at a ceremony chaired by Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri.

The accord was initialled by MAP Director General Abdeljalil Fenjiro and APS Director General Ahcen Belgacem Jaballah.

The signing ceremony was attended by President Director General of the Tunisian news agency "TAP" Moncef Jaafar and Secretary General of the Libyan News Agency "JANA" Abdallah Ramadan.

Sudan

Head of State Grants News Conference 24 Oct

EA2510205189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1335 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Head of State General 'Umar al-Bashir news conference on 24 October at the Republican Palace, Khartoum—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Bashir] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Blessings and peace be upon his messenger. I welcome you warmly to the Republican Palace and thank you for accepting the invitation to attend this conference. I hope to be able to make clarifications and reply to your questions. [passage omitted]

[Malone in English] Jim Malone of VOA, Nairobi. First of all, general, thank you for seeing us today. It's often said that actions speak louder than words. We've been hearing about a 40-day conference on peace in Sudan. Some people have alleged this is nothing more than a propaganda ploy to give credibility to your government both within and outside Sudan. During the same period a lot of military equipment has moved through Sudan into southern Sudan. My question to you, sir, is: Are you serious about peace, or are you merely buying time in order to gear up for war?

[Al-Bashir] Our move toward peace and our seriousness in the matter of peace do not in way any mean that we should halt normal supplies from reaching our forces in the operational zones. These troops need food, administration, and supplies. They need ammunition so that they can defend their positions. The Armed Forces are national forces. We, as leaders of these forces, want peace above anything else. All our efforts are directed toward achieving peace, but peace cannot be attained by weakening the Armed Forces. This would lead to the rout of the Armed Forces. Even states which do not have a rebellion or security problems (?have) Armed Forces which they strengthen and enhance. That is the position of every sovereign state.

[Hamdam] Salah Hamdam of MENA. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your excellency, the president: After having announced the recommendations of the national peace conference, which expressed the will and views of the Sudanese people in the south and the north, what steps toward peace does the Revolution Command Council [RCC] now envisage? Has the government made any actual contacts with the leaders of the movement and what does he, the general, envisage by way of future negotiations? The second question is: Will there be cooperation between Sudan and Egypt in contacting Garang with a view to achieving peace, inasmuch as Egypt (?carries weight) with the African states since President Mubarak is the chairman of the OAU? Will there be cooperation between Sudan and the neighboring states which are helping the movement, particularly Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda? What will be the nature of the external initiative during the period ahead? Will it embrace all the friendly states both in the East and in the West? Thank you.

[Al-Bashir] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following receipt by us of the recommendations, a joint session of the RCC and the Council of Ministers will be held to study the recommendations and adopt them as the government's official program. As for contacting the brothers in Egypt, contacts and consultations between us and them have not ceased since 30 June. They are, so to speak, partners with us in our peace efforts.

We believe it was fortunate that as soon as we assumed power, President Husni Mubarak was elected chairman of the OAU. Inasmuch as Egypt and its president carry weight in Africa, we believe that this is an important factor in the peace process for the south. Regarding the external initiative, after we have ratified these recommendations in the council, we shall form delegations comprising members of the conference—people who themselves participated in the conference—to go first to the neighboring African states, since these are preoccupied with the situation in Sudan, which affects them. They also have a role to perform in the peace process.

The delegations will also carry out preliminaries for negotiations with the movement. The internal initiative will be undertaken by sending delegations to the various regions to explain the conference's recommendations and decisions so that Sudanese citizens in every area become fully familiar with the government's program and procedures. The delegation which will go to negotiate with the movement will be a delegation representing the Sudanese people—all the Sudanese masses currently within the borders of the Republic of Sudan. We want the delegation to be representative because then, when we make any recommendations, we will have involved the Sudanese people in them. So, we shall have a delegation that truly represents the Sudanese people.

[Ghanim] Munir Ghanim, correspondent of the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY. What will be your position, Your Excellency the President, if the movement rejects the decisions of the peace dialogue conference? Will a resumption of fighting be the answer to such a rejection? In the event of war, where will the expenses of the war emanate from in view of the current state of the economy? Thank you.

[Al-Bashir] We certainly do not expect that negotiations with the movement are going to be simple or that achieving peace will be a rapid process. It is an issue that generally requires patience and perseverance. We are determined to be patient and persevering. We shall follow every path that might lead to peace. We think that the decisions and recommendations of this conference will not satisfy all the members of the movement. But there is a substantial element within the movement which wishes to advance the peace process.

We are immensely persuaded of this. Thank God, our confidence is great that we shall be able to achieve peace. Our experience as Sudanese is that no matter much we might disagree, when we come to discuss the subject objectively, we shall arrive at positive results.

If the worst should happen, however, if fighting is imposed on us, by God then we shall have no choice except to fight. Then we shall put the matter before the Sudanese people once again, convinced that the Sudanese people are capable of fighting and capable of devoting their scarce resources to the war in order to realize their aspirations and achieve peace in the end.

[Hamid] In the name of Allah, the most compassionate and merciful. Kamal Hamid, JARIDAT AL-SAHARQ AL-AWSAT [MAGAZINE OF THE MIDDLE EAST]. As stated by the leader of the revolution that some steps have been made since the first declaration of the revolution—general amnesty—and we take it that the peace conference is the culmination or the most that can be done to achieve peace. Therefore, I would like really to ask that while the peace conference was winding up reports circulated of a military escalation on the part of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], the shooting down of a plane, and of a military build-up around Kurmuk. So far no announcement or communique of denial or confirmation has been issued by the government. I believe it is time we knew about the reality of this issue, because the world news agencies have reported this topic as if to show that the peace conference has ended and military escalation has been initiated by the government which is transfering military hardware to the south, that the movement has started shooting down aircraft specifically in Juba, and that there is a military build-up around Kurmuk.

My second question is: the recommendations of the conference contained various aspects which will assure Sudan's future: peace, the south, etc, and the future government. Is there a definite period to implement these recommendations, or does the whole matter await the agreement of the other side? Thank you.

[Al-Bashir] What happened is that in the final days of the conference, while the members of the conference were drafting their final recommendations, the movement announced that it wanted to give a gift to Sudanese people. The gift they meant was the fall of Kurmuk. They started a concentrated offensive against Kurmuk, but our forces have so far valiantly repulsed all the attacks with great success and with heavy losses on the part of the movement.

The delay in the announcement was because the country—and as I said, the people—were waiting for their final recommendations, and were about to celebrate the October revolution. So we decided at the General Command that we should not spoil the happiness of the Sudanese people which they enjoy, or which they are anticipating in the announcement of the resolutions and recommendations and the celebrations. That is why we decided to postpone an announcement on the activities being conducted by the movement. What the movement is saying is to the effect that we are the ones who started the attacks. Naturally, this talk is devoid of truth, because the attack was directed at Kurmuk, and there were no forces outside the area to attack the rebel camps.

As I said earlier, supplying our forces with the food and equipment they need, this is normal procedure, and so they move from position to position not searching for rebel camps so as to hit them, but the fact is, often these resupply movements encounter rebel ambushes.

[Hanjah] Ahmad Abdullah Hanjah, SAHIFAT AL-KUWAYTIYYAH [THE JOURNAL OF KUWAITI NEWS]. Mr President: Discussion continues both at home and abroad on the subject of your affiliation with the Islamic Front. What in your opinion as leader of the revolution is the reason that this accusation continues to be leveled in spite of repeated denials from all the leaders of the revolution and government, particularly after Al-Numayri brought up this matter in a letter to you. And regarding deposed President al-Numayri, why has he resumed his political activities in what appears to be opposition to your government? What efforts are you making to contain this opposition?

[Al-Bashir] Regarding the first question: When we assumed power we did not anticipate that we would get 100 percent support. As to the existence of opposition, that is a perfectly normal phenomenon. Since we took power the opposition has found no accusation to level against us except that of affiliation to the Islamic Front and we believe that they will persist with this accusation until they find something else to accuse us of.

The aim of the accusation [words indistinct] the Front is primarily to isolate the revolution from the Sudanese masses and confine it within a narrow orbit. It is also designed to affect our relations with the Arab states which have begun to open their doors very wide to Sudan, and the same consideration applies to our relations with the neighboring Arab states.

It is also designed to stir up the West against the existing state of affairs in Sudan. In short, all this is being done in the interests of supporting the rebel movement. But the accusation, as I said before, will continue, but we have passed it by. We will never adopt a defensive posture. We are on the move and the caravan will proceed, God willing.

As for Ja'far al-Numayri regarding ourselves, it is a matter of the passage of time. Whatever he does or says does not bother us, because we think that he does not carry any weight whatsoever with us or with the Sudanese people. All he has been able to do is write a letter which he infiltrated, had copied, and distributed to a number of places. In it he claims—or what one gains from reading it is—that he is loyalist No 1, No 2, No 3, and to the last number in Sudan.

Ja'far al-Numayri proved to us that he had learned nothing from being in power for 16 years, nor did he learn anything during the 6 years he has spent away from power. The people around him continue to behave in exactly the same way. They present the situation to him painted in the colors they choose and he acts accordingly.

[Erdemann in English] Erdemann of Zurich newspapers, Switzerland. Mr President would you pursue peace even if it meant you have to step down and hand power back to a civilian government? Thank you.

[Al-Bashir] The peace process is now a matter of negotiations between the Sudanese and the internal front and the movement. There used to be a civilian government and operations escalated. Having civilians in charge by no means facilitates achieving peace. Prior to that we fought for 17 years and the successive civilian governments did not succeed in achieving peace. Peace was achieved under a military government. As we see it, there is an opportunity when the Sudanese are talking as one team [preceding word in English] under a strong unified government for peace to be achieved, unlike in the context of parties and party attenuation—diverging views within a single government.

It makes no difference who is in charge. What is important is joint participation and the recommendations of the conference have provided for broad popular participation in power. We have already embarked upon steps for participation, perhaps even before the conference issued its recommendations. As I said a program will be laid down for the implementation of the recommendations whether agreement is reached with the movement or not.

[Jubarah in English] Jabanah Jubarah, [words indistinct] representative in Sudan. I am sorry, Your Excellency, that most of my questions have been answered and so I have come up a question as an aside. It might be somewhat related, but still I'll mention it. My question is: Is there any contact with your government and Ethiopia to cooperate and to start the ball rolling toward peace? Thank you, sir.

[Al-Bashir] Truly, we as Sudanese and the Ethiopians are very concerned about stability in the region. As we say: If there is a fire in Addis Ababa its smoke will be visible in Khartoum and vice versa. On this basis since 30 June to date there has been contact and cooperation in that each state is helping the other to find solutions for its respective problems.

It is possible that in the talks which were held—the first round of talks in Addis Ababa—perhaps Ethiopia had a role in them because the meeting for the talks was held there. And the same thing happened with the meeting held in Atlanta—we had a role in persuading the other side to sit down and negotiate.

[Kulimnar in English] Kulimnar, Radio Netherlands: Mr President, the SPLA has said that actually they were on the verge of an agreement with the former government and that on 4 July a kind of an agreement was going to be signed and a constitutional conference had been agreed upon. What they are actually saying is that you prevented a peace agreement. I would like you to react to that.

[Al-Bashir] Yes, in fact what was called the Sudanese peace agreement and which was expected to have been signed by the government on 4 August [as heard] was not a peace agreement—it consisted of the four conditions laid down by the movement to the government and the Democratic Unionist Party which with the help of a number of trade unions imposed it on the government; they were going to sign Garang's conditions, which are the well-known four conditions because an agreement advances the people toward a finalized peace. No agreement was reached and peace was not achieved. What happened was that an attempt was made to reach agreement on fixing a date for the holding of the constitutitnal conference to embark upon the negotiations. What was going to happen on 4 November [as heard] was acceptance of Garang's conditions. Then a date would be fixed for the holding of the constitutional conference at which the solution to the problem would be discussed.

[(Siono) in English] My name is (Pak Siono) from ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japan. Now regarding the federal system, and after the actions of the conference recommendations, do you intend to implement the federal system type of the government even though the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA would reject your peace proposals? And my second question is: You are quoted as saying you are ready for secession of the south, if the people so desired after [word indistinct]. Later, some of your spokesmen said you were misquoted. Could you clarify that, sir? Thank you.

[Al-Bashir] Regarding the federal system that was suggested by the peace conference, we believe these are the recommendations and options of the Sudanese people. We shall adopt them, defend them and we shall continue to implement them, as I said, according to the detailed agenda which will be set in the future, if God wishes.

Regarding the talk of separation of the south, not one of the southern representatives to the conference spoke about separation of the south. This issue of separating the south is not part of the revolution's program. The revolution will not give up an inch of Sudanese soil. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Meets Former Defense Minister

EA2410140289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, October 23rd—Former Defence Minister Major General Rtd Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah has applauded the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace issues and the steps being taken by the revolution for maintaining security and stability throughout the country.

This came during a meeting here today between the chairman of the Revolutionary Council Gen 'Umar al-Bashir and Major Gen Rtd Rahmah who called on Gen 'Umar for congratulating him on the steps being taken towards boosting the peace process.

Foreign Minister Briefs Press on Conference

EA2510130689 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 25 (SUNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul has reiterated Sudan's commitment to the non-interference in other countries' affairs, peaceful co-existence and good-neighbourly policy. Sahlul, who met here Tuesday [24 October] with foreign pressmen, said that the civil war in the southern Sudan had impeded the process of the economic development in the country.

Asked whether the national dialogue conference had responded to the preconditions posed by rebel leader John Garang or not, the minister noted that such preconditions could not be imposed by any party, saying that the conference had debated all issues mentioned by Garang, such as the establishment of a democratic system.

Sahlul added that the conference had dealt with the formation of a federal system, in which each region enjoys certain freedom and relationship between religion and the state.

Regarding a demand of Garang for absorbing his troops in the Armed Forces, he said that this matter could not be discussed at such a conference, but he added it would be reviewed at the negotiating table among specialists.

Sahlul categorically denied any torture of political detainees.

Foreign Minister Outlines Regional Policies

PM2410135789 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 19 Oct 89 p 15

[Unattributed interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] His Excellency 'Ali Sahlul, Sudanese foreign minister, spoke to AL-MADINAH about the principal foundations of Sudanese foreign policy, the Chad civil war and its effect on Sudan [no further reference to this], relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan, the conflict between Kenya and Sudan over the Elemi triangle, and Sudan's position during the present UN General Assembly meetings.

'Ali Sahlul started his interview with relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan. He said: The relationship between Sudan and the Kingdom is old and staunch and has developed in the recent period, especially since the new Sudanese ambassador's arrival in the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

On the foundations of Sudanese foreign policy he said: The state's policy is based on commitment to international charters and the treaties concluded between Sudan and other states, and on respect for these treaties and Sudan's commitments to other states, regardless of which government is in power. This is because obligations still stand, especially regarding the UN charter, the Arab League Charter, the OAU Charter, the Islamic Conference Organization Charter, and other regional and international charters. To this can be added the distinct and special relations binding the Arab community, especially our relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Gulf states, and Libya, since they are close to us and we have large communities in those countries. The same applies to the African community—both in the OAU and at the level of bilateral relations binding us to the neighboring African states which influence the situation in Sudan, especially the problem of the South, the refugee problem, as well as in the relations binding us to the neighboring states such as the issues concerning security, borders, trade, and so on. [passage omitted]

On relations between the Congo [as published] and Sudan, the dispute with Kenya over the Elemi triangle, and the reactivation of relations with the neighboring states, he said: The reactivation of relations with the neighboring states depends on the matters linking us to those states. There are problems with some states concerning the conditions prevailing there and in Sudan. If we take Ethiopia as an example in this case, which is why present consultations between the two leaderships are aimed at securing a common understanding on these existing problems and finding a suitable means of cooperation to overcome these problems, on the grounds that stability cannot be achieved in one part of the region without influencing the other part [sentence as published]. Regarding Ethiopian-Sudanese relations, I believe that tension has been eliminated as a result of that common understanding and the efforts exerted by the two leaderships to implement that common understanding and overcome those problems.

Obviously you heard about the Atlanta talks and the first round of our negotiations with the Garang movement, which we hope will be followed by other rounds until we resolve the problem of the South.

Regarding Zaire, there was the closed borders issue, but borders are now open and we have reached an understanding on that issue. We are now in the process of setting a date for convening the joint ministerial committee, which is likely to hold its meetings in November.

Regarding Kenya, we were supposed to hold a joint ministerial committee meeting this month, but Kenya's circumstances prevented that meeting from being held, and we are trying to agree on another date. Of course the Elemi triangle should be settled in two words, because it is Sudanese territory and its history is known. In the colonialist era its administration was allocated to the authority in Nairobi for purely administrative reasons, and then Sudan continued to pay the cost of Kenya's administration of the triangle. When both countries achieved independence, officials of both countries paid no attention to the question of resolving and settling that issue, and the situation continued as before. In recent years some oil and mineral companies started to explore in that region with the Kenyan authorities' approval, which means introducing a new factor into the region without consulting the Sudanese Government. This is why the latter decided to open the subject with the Kenyan Government and suggest that it engage in negotiation to settle the issue. And as a result, of course differing views occurred and led to a kind of tension in relations after the revolution. And we saw that that issue should not affect relations between two neighboring states bound together by many ties, since the issue can be dealt with not via the media but in a calm atmosphere, as used to happen before the revolution.

So we will look into it in the future with a view to agreeing on the ideal formula for consultation and negotiation on that issue, within the framework of either the joint ministerial committee or a another committee to be formed for that purpose.

On a recent Ethiopian statement on Ethiopia's nonsupport for the Garang movement he said: The fact that that statement was reported by the media is a step forward. If that statement is supported by an official letter from the Ethiopian Government, it will satisfy officials. But so far we have received no official confirmation of the statement or its precise content. And if it was actually issued, then it is undoubtedly a major step toward strengthening relations between the two states and toward their interpretation of the common understanding to which I have referred, with a view to resolving problems between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Political Committee Holds First Meeting

EA2510073489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The Political Committee of the National Salvation Revolution Command Committee [NSRCC] held its first meeting today under the chairmanship of Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the RCC and chairman of the committee.

The meeting discussed the plan for internal and external work after the end of the national dialogue conference. The meeting also approved the plans drawn up by the Ministry of Culture and Information, and the Information Committee of the national dialogue conference. The committee also confirmed that the internal front was unanimous regarding ways to solve Sudan's chronic problems. The committee emphasized the need to redouble efforts in all areas to achieve that goal, and the need to step up information work at information centers in Europe, Africa, and the world. [passage omitted]

Garang Meets President Moi, Expatriates in Kenya

EA2410175089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] leader, Comrade Dr John Garang de Mabior, on his way to Sudan from his southern African visit, had a stopover in Nairobi and had a meeting with the Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, in the State House. The meeting was centered on the current situation in the Sudan and SPLM/SPLA peace initiative.

Speaking to our correspondent after the meeting, the SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, said that his discussions with Daniel arap Moi were successful. He said that the SPLM/SPLA peace program also met with the approval of Daniel arap Moi. President Moi, like his colleagues—Presidents Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Kaunda of Zambia, Banda of Malawi, Masire of Botswana, Chissano of Mozambique, and Mwinyi of Tanzania—expressed the hope that the junta would accept the SPLM/SPLA's peace program so that peace returns to the Sudan. At the end of the meeting President Moi awarded the SPLM/SPLA leader the symbol of the 25th anniversary of Kenya's independence and 10 years of Nyayo era.

In the same evening of Monday, 16 October 1989, the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, had a meeting with the Sudanese community members resident in Nairobi. He explained to them the general situation in the country and the purpose of his visit to southern and east Africa. The SPLM/SPLA leader thanked the community in Nairobi for their spirit of cooperation and togetherness. He urged them to extend their spirit of cooperation to include the Kenyan citizens, so that they can form what he described as a Kenyan-Sudanese friendship association, a people-to-people organization that does not involve the state.

Dr Garang also briefed the Sudanese community in Nairobi on the movement's vision of the struggle, which has been to fight for a new united Sudan where all the Sudanese nationals fit in, and not to be fitted in by somebody else. We want to transform the situation to where the people fit in, where there will be equality and justice, Comrade Garang informed the Sudanese community in Nairobi.

He described the last coup that brought the present junta to power as the last version of sectarian in Sudan based on Islamic fundamentalism [sentence as heard].

The Sudanese community members expressed their gratitude to the SPLM/SPLA leader and congratulated him on his military, political, and diplomatic victories. They lauded the last speech of the SPLM/SPLA leader as one of the best a Sudanese politician has ever made, and they demanded that the speech be reprinted in many copies for those who did not hear it, to read.

Describing the movement as God-sent, the Sudanese community members resident in Nairobi demanded that the movement leadership should establish contacts with the Sudanese in exile. When we see you, our fears melt away, the Sudanese community members told the SPLM/SPLA leader.

Garang Meets Press in Nairobi

EA2410174289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, gave a press conference in Panafric Hotel in Nairobi last Tuesday, 17 October 1989. In that press conference, the SPLM/SPLA leader reiterated the movement's demand for the formation of a broad-based government of national unity, formation of a new army that will be consistent with and can defend the government of the new Sudan, convening of the national constitutional conference to debate and resolve Sudan's fundamental problems and draft a permanent constitution for the new united, democratic Sudan, and a holding of free general elections to elect a new national assembly to ratify the draft constitution.

The SPLM/SPLA leader again rejected al-Bashir's idea for the southern Sudan to secede. The idea being given is what the SPLA rejects—whether it is federation, confederation, or separation, said the SPLM/SPLA leader.

The SPLA commander in chief then accused Gen al-Bashir of violating his oath as an officer in the Sudanese Army. As an officer, he said, Gen al-Bashir was sworn in to defend the unity and the territorial integrity of the Sudan. Gen al-Bashir is now advocating the separation of the country. He must be court-martialed, demanded the SPLM/SPLA commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior.

Bahr al-Ghazal Security Situation 'Stable'

EA2410124789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Colonel Martin Malwal Arop, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council political supervisor of Bahr al-Ghazal region, has described the security situation in the region as stable. He said that the regional authorities had won the confidence of the citizens and had a great deal of cooperation from them.

He said the region suffered from a lack of supplies as a result of former policies and the misuse of supplies. He pointed out that there was a plan to bring in large quantities of supplies to the citizens as trains would begin reaching the town of Wau. Contacts have been made to transport some supplies by aircraft. His excellency also said that those engaged in corruption and the misuse of supplies in the region had been detained.

Khartoum Hospital Receiving Combat Casualties

AB2510183889 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 25 Oct 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Heavy fighting has broken out in Blue Nile Province in southeastern Sudan. The flare-up has happened in spite of an informal cease-fire in the region as the government and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels try to find ways of getting together in peace talks. The SPLA was the first to reveal that fighting was going on and blamed the government for attacking rebel positions. The government denies that and claims that the SPLA has launched an offensive. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] The Military Hospital in Khartoum says it has been receiving dead bodies and wounded government soldiers since the middle of the month. The hospital says the dead number about 40. A group of military men who were on their way to southern Sudan said they have been told to prepare to go to Blue Nile Province instead.

The actual scale of the fighting and where it is taking place is being widely disputed by the government and the SPLA. The rebels say the fighting is going on between Kurmuk on the Ethiopian border and Ad Damazin, the capital of Blue Nile Province, which is about 100 miles to the north. The rebels also say that heavy fighting is continuing. However, Sudan's military leader, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, said the attack was mounted only on Kurmuk which the SPLA captured and briefly occupied in late 1987. He said yesterday, the SPLA launched a heavy and unprovoked attack on Kurmuk with the aim of capturing it but the Sudanese Army had stood up to the attack courageously and repulsed it. He said the Army had inflicted heavy losses on the rebels in terms of both human life and equipment lost. He said the attack on Kurmuk indicated the attitude of the rebels to peace talks. While we were concluding the national peace dialogue, Gen al-Bashir said, the rebels decided to present the Sudanese people with a gift, capturing Kurmuk. He said the government had not exposed the SPLA's deeds, because the Sudanese people were celebrating their October uprising and the conclusion of the peace conference. [end recording]

New Under Secretary of Customs Appointed

EA2410105589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has issued a decree appointing Mr Majid Abu Jin Ahmad under secretary of customs and records [words indistinct]. The decree is in accordance with ordinance number 5 of the first constitutional order for the year 1989.

Correction to Al-Bashir on Contacts With Egypt

EA2510100089

The following correction pertains to the item with the subheading "Comments on Contacts With Egypt" published in the 25 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 11:

Page 11, column two, antepenultimate paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...of the revolution on June 30, said the chairman... (clearing words indistinct)

Same page, same paragraph, second sentence, make read: ...of the OAU and this is an important... (clearing words indistinct)

Western Sahara

Premier Appeals to Europe for Support

LD2210115989 Algiers APS in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 22 October (APS)—Saharan Prime Minister Ali Beida has addressed an appeal to European countries urging them to demand holding direct talks on the Western Saharan conflict between the Polisario and Morocco until peace is established in the region. This came in a statement by the Saharan Information Ministry.

The statement adds that Ali Beida, who is leading the Saharan delegation to the Austrian Socialist Party congress in Graz, held between 19 and 21 October, has said that "the position of the Austrian Socialist Party is the best instrument to make Austria recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic." The statement adds that the Austrian Socialist Party congress approved a resolution which supports the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Returns From Al-Faw Fete

JN2610071989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, returned to Manama from Baghdad tonight after attending Iraq's great pan-Arab celebrations. The celebrations, which began today, marked the end of the national campaign to rebuild the city of al-Faw. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

PDRY Prime Minister Nu'man Departs for Home

LD2410134589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0848 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Aden, Oct 24 (KUNA)—Prime Minister of People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Yasin Sa'id Nu'man returned home Tuesday after making an official visit to Kuwait.

Nu'man told reporters that discussions with the Kuwaiti officials were successful and centered on cooperation and key Mideast and international development.

Saudi Arabia

Jordanian King Congratulates Fahd on Accord

LD2510195689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1802 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Jeddah 25 Oct, SPA—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, King of Jordan. During the call, King Husayn expressed his sincere congratulations concerning the achievement on Saudi soil of the agreement among Lebanese parliamentarians on the national accord document—the blessed fruit of the well-guided and continuous efforts of the supreme Arab tripartite committee.

The custodian of the two holy mosques answered his brother's congratulations by expressing deep gratitude and praising his sincere fraternal stances in support of the work of the Arab tripartite committee in all phases, which had the best effect on all the brother members of the committee.

United Arab Emirates

Sultan Qabus of Oman Begins Visit to Abu Dhabi

Welcomed by President

JN2410150189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman arrived in Abu Dhabi this afternoon on a visit of several days to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan led the welcoming ceremony at Abu Dhabi international airport. Also receiving the Sultan were members of the Higher Council—rulers of the emirates—and senior military and civilian officials.

Opens Talks With Shaykh Zayid

JN2510121189 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Talks between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and his distinguished guest His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id, sultan of fraternal Oman, was held at the presidential office this morning. [passage omitted]

The two leaders held a further meeting in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who visited the country's distinguished guest His Majesty Qabus Ibn-Sultan in his place of residence at the guest palace this morning and who also accompanied His Majesty Sultan Qabus to the presidential office, where the official sesssion of talks are to be held between the UAE and fraternal Sultanate of Oman.

Heir Apparent Receives Jordan's Al-Nabulsi

JN2310165389 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct (GNA)—Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan today received a letter from Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir.

It was delivered by Central Bank Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi during a meeting with Shaykh Khalifah here.

The letter contained an invitation to Shaykh Khalifah to visit Jordan and also concerned bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

Al-Nabulsi explained the economic situation in Jordan and hailed the role of Gulf central banks in supporting that economy.

He also praised the UAE's support for Jordan within the framework of their brotherly ties under the leadership of president Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and King Husayn.

Yemen Arab Republic

Cooperation Minutes Signed With Soviet Union

JN2410181989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The minutes of the committee meetings that have been held for several days in preparation for the fourth session of the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation were signed at the Central Planning Authority today.

The minutes contain an agreement in principle on a number of areas of joint cooperation between our country and the Soviet Union, including agriculture, oil, electricity, ports, cement, textile, trade exchange, and roads. The minutes will be submitted to the meetings of the Higher Yemeni-Soviet Committee for Economic, Technical, and Trade Cooperation scheduled to be held in Sanaa early next year, 1990.

The minutes were signed for the Yemeni side by 'Abd-al-Wali al-'Aqil, Central Planning Authority deputy assistant, and for the Soviet side by (Yuriy Ghormanin), deputy chairman of the Soviet side to the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation. The signing ceremony was attended by a number of officials and by the Soviet trade attache in Sanaa.

Official Discusses Yemeni Unity, Eritrean Issue

JN2510094S Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, 25 Oct (WAKH)—Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, member of the YAR [Yemen Arab Republic] Consultative Council, has stated that his country has made several proposals to South Yemen concerning the achievement of unity between the two parts of Yemen.

In an interview with the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB published today, al-Asbahi said the proposals deal with unification of defense and foreign policies and the need to take tangible steps in these two fields during the coming phase.

Asked about Yemeni mediation between Eritrean factions and Ethiopia, the Yemeni official said that some preparatory steps have been taken during visits made by delegations from both sides and that the mediation is still in progress.

Al-Asbahi said that the development process in the Yemen Arab Republic is centered on building the Yemeni citizen, laying the foundations of democracy, and entrenching the principle of public participation in decisionmaking.

UN Ambassador Holds News Conference on POW's

JN2010142889 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Tex] United Nations, Oct. 20, INA—Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari said last night that Iraq was glad the International Committee of the Red Cross agreed with Iraq that Article 118 of the Geneva Convention means that Iran should have immediately agreed to the exchange of prisoners of war after hostilities ceased, as Iraq has offered to do.

At a press conference at the U.N. Correspondents Club, Dr. Ambari charged that Iran was dragging its feet in efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a negotiated settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict, and was trying to pick and choose the elements it wanted from the resolution, rather than to implement it as an integral whole.

Although hostilities had ceased, he noted that until now there is no formal ceasefire and no progress on the exchange of prisoners of war or the implementation of the resolution that would lead to a comprehensive and just peace, as a result of Iran's reluctance to have direct negotiations under the auspices of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Noting the resolution calls for the cessation of fighting on land, on the sea and in the air, the Iraqi ambassador said there was a difference of opinion regarding what that meant on sea, pointing out that Iran has violated that by insisting on searching and boarding vessels sailing in the international waters of the Hormuz Strait.

He said that Iraq has taken a number of initiatives to show its good faith and readiness to reach a conclusive peace, such as rebuilding the cities of al-Faw and Basra even though they were in range of Iranian mortars, and informing international authorities that international airflights to Iran would be permitted in Iraqi airspace.

In answer to questions, Dr. al-Anbari said the ceasefire continued to hold, but POW's should have been repatriated long ago, and direct talks under the auspices of the secretary-general should be undertaken.

He said you can't speak to a wall and get a peace treaty signed and the negotiations could drag on for years without reaching agreement.

He said Resolution 598 was very carefully worded by the Security Council taking into consideration the interests of both sides. He added that when Iraq accepted the ceasefire, it was ready to start direct talks even at the level of prime ministers, but Iran had insisted that the talks be at a lower level, reluctantly agreeing to the foreign ministerial level.

The Iraqi ambassador said Iran was very angry that members of the Security Council expressed concern over the human tragedy of the POW's and that they are still in camps, some not even registered.

He noted that Iraq had released children prisoners, and those sick and wounded, and Iraq [as received] would not accept them back, and many were in camps in Turkey and Switzerland. He noted that Iraq had gone to the first round of talks in Geneva with the names of all Iranian POW's and put them on the desk of the ICRC president, and said "their [spelling as received] yours if Iran will do likewise," which Iran refused to do.

The countinuous state of war is hurting the economy of both countries, Dr. al-Anbari said, suggesting that in that regard it was especially important to Iran to end the war because its economy was in very bad shape due to a steep decline in oil production.

Delegate Addresses UN Commission on Terrorism

JN2110203089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Iraq has affirmed that the Zionist aggressions against Lebanon, the raid by the Zionist entity's planes on the nuclear reactor "Tammuz," which was constructed for peaceful purposes in 1981, and the raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis are all examples of state terrorism.

In a speech delivered before the UN Legal Commission, which is holding its meetings within the framework of the 44th UN General Assembly session, the Iraqi delegate condemned all forms of terrorism, the financing of terrorist elements, and instigating and sheltering them. He stressed the need to investigate the real reasons behind terrorism and protect the lives of innocent people.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Visiting Irish Official

JN2110200089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received (Broderick Murphy), head of the Political Department at the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, they discussed Iraqi-Irish relations, ways to develop them in all spheres, the situation in the region, and a number of issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, the head of the First Political Department, and the Irish ambassador to Baghdad.

'Aziz Confers With Mauritanian Counterpart

JN2310054589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, this evening. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two fraterenal countries and ways to

promote them in all areas. They also discussed the latest developments in the Arab region and other issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry, the Iraqi ambassador to Nouakchott, and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Hamzah Receives Mauritanian, Sudanese Ministers

JN2310154689 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 23, INA—Mr Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications, received here today Mauritanian Minister of Transport and Trade Hamda Samby, now on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, means of enhancing bilateral relations in the transport and communications field were discussed.

Mr Hamzah also received today Sudanese Minister of Transport and Communications 'Ali Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim.

The two ministers discussed scopes of cementing bilateral relations besides other important topics.

Agreement Reached on Transport With PDRY

Joint Panel Begins Meeting

JN2310153589 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 23, INA—Meetings of the Iraqi-Democratic Yemen joint cooperation committee began here today.

Mr Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications, chaired the Iraqi side while his Yemeni counterpart Mr Salih 'Abdallah chaired the Democratic Yemen side.

The two sides agreed on working out a draft agreement to arrange fields of cooperation between civil aviation establishments in both countries and the admission of 10 Yemeni students in vocational training centres and institutes affiliate of the ministry, besides expanding the exchange of expertise and studies in this field. [sentence as received]

Transport Accord Signed

JN2410200289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1754 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — Iraq and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] today signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of transport and communications. The agreement was signed on the Iraqi side by Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications, and on the PDRY side by Transport Minister Salih 'Abdallah.

The agreement stipulates that the PDRY airline Alyemda will utilize the facilities available to Iraqi Airways in the maintenance of planes and equipment, and will exchange technical expertise and spare parts for planes in accordance with the detailed bilateral agreements yet to come.

The agreement gives the PDRY airline the right to transport air freight between Baghdad and Cairo on an average of two trips per week, in addition to coordinating and cooperating with Iraqi Airways in the field of the various air trade activities.

The agreement also stipulates establishing direct telephone links between the fraternal countries through the Arab satellite, Arabsat, developing postal services, exchanging experiences in postal administration, and studying the initiation of express and electronic postal services.

The agreement also provides for the establishment of marine companies in the two fraternal countries to start a joint marine company to cooperate and negotiate constantly in the fields of marine transportation, ports, and ship repair.

It also included the acceptance of 10 students from the PDRY to receive training at the institutes of civil aviation and communications belonging to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. It also included exchanging studies, research, information, publications, and scientific and information brochures, in addition to the legalities, laws, and instructions pertaining to transportation and communication in general.

Minister Lectures in London on Oil Affairs

JN2110122089 Bahgdad INA in English 1630 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] London, Oct 20, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi stressed that role of OPEC in the oil and energy market would be effective in the 90's and would contribute to the stability of the market through boosting its clout on prices.

Addressing the international symposium on oil and finance here today, the minister added that oil would remain a vital source for energy during the next decade adding that demand on oil would increase.

He pointed out that needs of the world for oil during the forthcoming period is expected to increase by four percent during the first half of the 90's which means an increase in oil production between 58 and 60 million barrels daily in the year 2000.

The Iraqi oil minister stressed desire of OPEC member states in preserving the production quotas and stabilizing prices for strengthening confidence between the producer and the consumer.

He pointed out that some of the OPEC member states have the capability of increasing their production capacities taking into consideration that OPEC member states possess 76 percent of the international oil reserve.

He further said that the Arab Gulf region has 645 billion barrels, equalling 64.6 percent of the international oil reserve. He pointed out that Iraq only has a reserve estimated at one billion barrels, approximately ten percent of the oil reserve in the world, and has a production capacity of 4.5 million barrels daily.

On OPEC's long-term strategy, the Iraqi oil minister said this strategy is based on adopting an effective pricing and productive policy leading to boosting coordination among its member states and relations with other non-OPEC oil producers and also the consumers.

On the role of non-OPEC oil producing countries, the minister said that these countries resorted to a policy during the period from 1976 to 1986 aimed at increasing their share in the oil market at the expense of OPEC and its efforts for defending the price system. These countries did not attempt to cooperate with the OPEC to restore stability in the market especially following reduction of the international demand on oil betwen 1979 and 1985.

These countries however and after the bitter experience in the oil markets in 1976 started to show readiness to cooperate with OPEC.

The Iraqi oil minister attributed increase of the demand of oil over the next ten years to soaring problems facing the nuclear energy lobby where calls are increasing on relinquishing nuclear reactors for their pollution of the environment.

(?He added that) the nuclear lobby will attempt to impose (?more demands for) new reactions after the year 2000 especially by the United States and eastern Asia.

The Iraqi minister stressed importance of oil revenues in the social and economic development in the producing countries and also referred to rendering importance to the interests of consumers, interests that should be shared equally by the two sides, the producer and the consumer." We are ready to undertake an effective role in this respect, the minister concluded.

Returns From London Meetings

JN2110190089 Baghdad INA in English 1800 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi returned to Baghdad today after participating in the meetings of the seminar on oil and finance sponsored by the newspapers THE HERALD TRIBUNE and THE OIL DAILY on the 9th and 20th of this month.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that the seminar in which 400 figures, including oil and energy ministers as well as specialists in the oil and finance sectors, participated tackled a number of current oil issues and the future of energy in the world during the nineties.

The minister pointed out that he submitted a study on Iraq's hopes concerning the future of the international oil market during the nineties and the roles of both producers and consumers in securing the objective conditions needed for developing the oil industry during the next decade. He indicated that he affirmed the importance of the role that will be played by the Arab states, particularly Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates to meet the increasing demand for oil in light of their huge oil reserves and their production capacities.

Minister Meets GDR Friendship Society Chairman

JN2110173389 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 21, INA—Mr Mundhir Ibrahim, minister of higher education and scientific research, met this morning chairman of the Democratic Germany-Iraqi friendship society.

The two officials reviewed during the meeting cultural and scientific relations between Iraq and the German Democratic Republic and means of cementing them.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN2310144789 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 23, INA—Iraq and Democratic Republic of Germany signed today an agreement for joint cooperation in all domains.

The agreement was signed for Iraq by Mr Muhammad Salih al-'Azzawi, chairman of Iraqi-East German Friendship Society, while the chairman of East German-Iraqi friendship society signed it for his country.

15 Assembly Members Elected to ACC Committee

JN2110185089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] The National Assembly today held an extraordinary session during which 15 assembly members were elected to represent the assembly within the parliamentary committee of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said in a speech that the election of these members is the first step

toward further development and growth in the political and parliamentary life of the ACC member states. He added that the materialization of this step shows all parties the formulas and forms of democracy being espoused. He went on to say that this democratic process will become a firm tradition within the policies that will enhance the role of this assembly, alongside the other parliaments in the ACC member states.

The extraordinary session was attended by 'Abd-al-Rahman Burawi, secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union; and Nur-al-Din Bashkuj, his deputy.

U.S. Moves To Secure Endorsement of Baker Plan

TA2510193889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Reports which reached Jerusalem indicate that the United States is in no hurry to set a date for a meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The United States, according to political circles, is trying to pressure Israel into accepting Baker's five-point plan.

The issue was debated in today's Inner Cabinet meeting. Our political affairs correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from the studio:

Despite the ostensibly soft-spoken diplomatic exchanges made on the Washington-Jerusalem telephone line, the United States is now trying to exert extra pressure on Shamir and Arens to secure an Israeli endorsement of Baker's initiative. Leaks from the White House, which reached Jerusalem today, indicate that as long as Shamir does not adopt Baker's initiative for talks with the Palestinians, he will not be met by President Bush in mid-November.

Sources in Shamir's bureau said tonight: The preparations for the visit are proceeding normally; no leak will deter us. The prime minister's bureau sources confirm that, to overcome the differences, Israel has suggested direct meetings, instead of telephone talks. The suggestions were rejected, however, for as long as Shamir rejects Baker's plan.

The prime minister himself said in the Inner Cabinet meeting today: Their preference for the telephone over personal contacts is odd. This, however, is the current situation. The possibility of secret low-level officials is now being considered.

The embroiled political process and the danger of an increasing crisis with the United States have exacerbated the situation inside the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet. In today's Inner Cabinet meeting, the prime minister was the butt of criticism from both the Alignment and the braces ministers. [passage omitted]

Tonight, some ministers speculated that Shamir was interested in a clash with Ari'el Sharon in order to prove that he is encountering internal problems. The Prime Minister's Office said: The fact that the prime minister and the foreign minister are not allowed to run things is absurd.

Shamir Denies Abandonment of Peace Initiative

TA2510181689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] During today's meeting of the Likud ministers, Prime Minister Shamir briefed the participants on the contacts currently taking place around U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five points. The prime minister categorically denied reports published in the United States that said he and the Likud wished to abandon the Israeli peace initiative.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir told the Likud ministers that Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had briefed him yesterday regarding the latter's telephone conversation with Secretary of State Baker. Arens said that Baker is pleased with the letter he received from his Israeli colleague and sees that Israel is making an effort to bridge the outstanding differences in opinion. Prime Minister Shamir, however, said this is still not it.

The prime minister added that we have nothing to hide from the Americans. We have stated very clearly that we want no talks with the PLO. The Israeli peace initiative is against the PLO and constitutes an alternative to negotiations with that organization. Mr Shamir said that any day a situation may arise that could necessitate the convening of the Inner Cabinet to make decisions, but for the moment we have not yet reached that stage.

The prime minister pointed out that the Soviet Union is trying to convince the PLO and Egypt to toughen their positions and demand the inclusion of the PLO in the peace negotiations.

Ministers Protest Non-Involvement in Contacts

TA2510165489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Several Inner Cabinet ministers are protesting the fact that, according to them, they are not being involved in political contacts. Our political affairs correspondent Arye Golan reports that the protesters include Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, Minister Ari'el Sharon, and Minister Moshe Shahal.

Minister Levi has expressed astonishment at the fact that the foreign minister has been replying on behalf of the government on the Baker plan issue, leaving the Inner Cabinet members ignorant of his answers. He demanded that the issue be brought to the Inner Cabinet at once.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in response that the entire matter will be brought before the Inner Cabinet, and that he does not intend to hide a thing from the Inner Cabinet members.

Shamir, Sharon Exchange 'Acrimonious' Words

TA2510174289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] An acrimonious exchange of words between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister Ari'el Sharon occurred in today's Inner Cabinet meeting. Mr Shamir went to the extreme of telling Minister Sharon to stop driving him crazy. At this point, Minister Sharon addressed the stenographer, saying that he hoped the phrase would be entered in the meeting's minutes.

According to Sharon, such an expression has never been heard in the Inner Cabinet, in particular in discussions of life and death matters.

The storm broke out after Sharon said that the political contacts between Shamir and Arens and the Washington administration were made in such a way that only some of the Likud ministers would be able to vote on them. The prime minister replied that there are no factions inside the Likud, to which Sharon replied: You bet there are.

Ben-Aharon Says Israel Has Reached 'Red Line'

TA2610063189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Einstein] Last night, U.S. Secretary of State Baker explained that he has no intention of changing the text of the five-point plan he has sent to Jerusalem and Cairo. James Baker said: Our proposal is designed to implement the Israeli election plan. Our five points are clear and reasonable. The parties should accept the formula without amendments, because if we introduce alterations we may have to contend with requests for changes from Egypt. The text should first of all be accepted. Later, in a meeting, it will be possible to enter into the specifics of the process.

Mr Ben-Aharon, what is your comment on these remarks?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, in such a dialogue between two countries, the question of credibility and determining the other side's steadfastness arises. In other words, we are duty-bound to convince the United States that the Israeli Government's initiative clearly stipulates that we will not give the PLO a foothold, whether through the main gate or even through a side window. If the U.S. President tells the prime minister and the secretary of state tells the foreign minister: We are not pressuring you to enter into negotiations with the PLO, our response is simply: Fine, in that case, the mandate for the meeting—the five points—must be phrased in a way that will leave no room for doubt that the PLO will not be allowed in, even through the window.

There is a question of credibility, because unfortunately voices have emanated from Israel that cast doubts on the Israeli Government's determined stand. Perhaps that is why, quite naturally, the U.S. Administration is trying to assess the degree of our determination. This is precisely what is happening at the moment. There is no doubt in my mind that it will be only a few days before they understand that the five points must coincide with the Israeli Government's initiative.

[Einstein] In other words, pledges outside the framework of the document itself are unacceptable to Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] We must suggest that there be no vagueness in this document, because it constitutes the groundwork for moving the political process forward. If there are unclear portions in it, we will all regret it, because later, in the course of crises during the negotiations, there will be misunderstandings, bitterness, and anger on the part of the participants to the process. That is why these things should be clarified in advance. Hence the significance of this document. We understand that the United States is trying to find a golden mean, but it is impossible to find a middle road between Israel and the PLO, although it is possible to find a happy medium between Israel and the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. No compromise, however, can be found between us and the PLO.

[Einstein] What would you say about Secretary Baker's remark that he actually fears that if changes are inserted, as per Israel's request, Egypt will then ask for changes to suit itself, so that ultimately who knows if the document would yield anything?

[Ben-Aharon] All negotiations, by nature, require working with the two sides in order to reach some position that could serve as the basis for the start of the process. The U.S. Administration wants to be sure that Israel has indeed reached the red line. I believe that we are signaling in the best, clearest, most frank, and friendliest way to the United States that we have indeed reached the red line—namely, that this is the point beyond which we will go no further and that we will not cross that line in the direction of the PLO.

[Einstein] Mr Ben-Aharon, is it clear today in no uncertain terms, or is it still unclear, whether a meeting will be held between President Bush and the prime minister during Mr Shamir's U.S. visit?

[Ben-Aharon] To the best of our knowledge, the meeting will indeed take place, because it was the U.S. Administration that suggested several dates for that meeting.

[Einstein] Even if the differences of opinion remain until then?

[Ben-Aharon] All the more so! Logic would have it that if there are differences of opinion, the need for a meeting becomes even greater. Such things have happened before. Therefore, we cannot imagine that the U.S. Administration, the government of a superpower, should turn its back on us and decide not to talk to us. This simply does not make sense. There is the technical matter of setting the date for such a meeting, as we know they are expecting other official guests on exactly the same dates that the prime minister will be there. I consequently believe that it is only a technical matter and that we will complete the planning and depart on the date that had been set.

[Einstein] Thank you and have a good morning, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

[Ben-Aharon] A very good morning to you, too.

Ministry Denies Nuclear Ties With South Africa

TA2610075089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The reports on nuclear ties between Israel and South Africa are completely unfounded, the Defense Ministry spokesman said this morning in reaction to the NBC-TV report on Israeli-South African ties. Our military correspondent 'Amos Har'el updates:

[Har'el] The Defense Ministry spokesman again emphasized this morning that the Israeli Government's policy regarding the introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East remains as it has always been—namely, that Israel will never be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the region. The spokesman said that there is absolutely no basis for the NBC report last night on alleged nuclear ties between Israel and South Africa. The Defense Ministry emphasized that the defense establishment scrupulously adheres to the Inner Cabinet resolution of 18 March 1987 that no new defense contracts will be signed with South Africa.

Inner Cabinet Made Decisions on Nuclear Policy

TA2610094389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has disclosed that the Inner Cabinet has held a long and extensive debate on Israel's nuclear policy. He claimed that decisions were made, which Israel follows. He reiterated that Israel would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Minister Sharon was speaking on our program "It Is All Talk."

On the political issue, he said that contacts with the U.S. Administration are being held in a dilettante way. The prime minister, he said, has lost control. As a case in point, Minister Sharon noted several statements Mr Shamir has made against him and other Inner Cabinet ministers. He repeated his demand that the Inner Cabinet be fully briefed on contacts with the United States.

Shamir Notified of New 'Moderate' Likud Forum

TA2510105689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Top Likud echelons yesterday expressed high interest in reports in HA'ARETZ concerning the establishment of the Ofaqim [Horizons] circle 2 days ago. The group comprises moderate Likud Central Committee members and senior activists. Some 25 Central Committee members yesterday signed a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, notifying him of this new body, detailing the main points of their activities, and asking for his support.

Following the establishment of the circle, Shamir's confidants yesterday made clear that the Likud movement is a large body in which room for activity should be made available, organizations set up, and opinions expressed should not be disqualified, assuming that they operate in the framework of accepted Likud parameters.

Two days ago a meeting of some 25 Likud activists, most of whom are Central Committee members, decided to set up the group. There are no first-rank Likud Central Committee members among those who head this new body. The intention, however, is for senior Central Committee members to join it in the near future.

The meeting held 2 days ago was attended by, among others, Ya'aqov Ya'aqov, a former deputy head of the Mevaseret Zion local council; Ze'ev Ben-Yosef, spokesman for the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry; Ya'aqov Uri, a former aide to Minister Ehud Olmert; Shmu'el Kohen; Yafa Motiv of Bet Horon; and Hayim Bashari, a former aide to the tourism minister. Hayim 'Amar, the prime minister's adviser on social and welfare affairs, was also invited but did not take part in the meeting.

The letter the Ofaqim circle sent to the prime minister says: "We, a nucleus of Likud Central Committee members and activists, wish to inform you of the establishment of the Ofaqim circle, which will be an open and tolerant framework for activities and discussions of national, political, social, and economic issues within the Likud. The Ofaqim circle will maintain a spirit of mutual tolerance and will allow for the expression of the spectrum of positions and opinions in the movement in an open, friendly, and businesslike fashion, with the intention of creating an atmosphere of cooperation for the joint advancement of our goals and aims, despite differences." [passage omitted]

Ofaqim circle members wrote to Shamir that the group hopes that the Likud and Labor parties will reach an agreement on ways to implement the Israeli peace initiative. "We view the advancement of the peace process and the solution to the conflict in our region as the major goal and a national interest.... We do not favor a political solution at any price. We must strive for peace with care and responsibility, and not under pressure of the events of the intifadah, while safeguarding Israel's vital interests."

Olmert Expresses 'Disappointment' With Pope

TA2510140489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Minister Ehud Olmert called upon the Catholic Church to conduct some historical soul-searching

regarding its relations with the Jewish people. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that, during his speech in the Knesset Plenum, Minister Olmert reacted to the pope's statements on the Palestinians and said that John Paul II spoke in a style which we had considered to be a thing of the past.

Mr Olmert pointed out that, when Jordan had control over Judaea and Samaria, other faiths were denied the right to worship and sites sacred to Christianity were damaged and desecrated, while the Catholic Church remained silent and failed to condemn these actions. Since Israel assumed sovereignty, the attitude toward other religions has changed but the Vatican has never expressed any satisfaction. In conclusion, Olmert said that we cannot but express our disappointment and hope that the Catholic Church and those leading it will conduct some soul-searching and reach conclusions.

PLO-Related Network Uncovered in Gaza Strip

TA2510205989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The security forces in the Gaza Strip recently uncovered an extensive network organization of the Islamic Jihad. Dozens of activists have been detained so far. Leaders of the organization had maintained contacts with a senior military Islamic Jihad activist in Sudan. That same man is connected with Shaykh Asad al-Hamimi, one of the leaders of an Islamic Jihad faction operating from Jordan. Organization members were usually recruited during their pilgrimage to Mecca. They were operated by messengers sent by PLO offices in Saudi Arabia.

Our military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports that the network began operating in 1985, but increased its activities after the beginning of the intifadah. The various network cells operated in Rafah, Khan Yunus, and Gaza.

The detained network members admitted, among other charges, to the placing of improvised bombs and attempts to smuggle explosives from Egypt.

'Terrorist' Given Life Sentence Plus 20 Years

TA2510121989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Ahmad Husayn Muhammad Shukri, the terrorist who on 7 September 1989 murdered Mikha'el Ashtamkar and the next day tried to veer a bus traveling along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv into a ravine, was given a life sentence and an additional 20-year term by the Tel Aviv District Court.

Curfews, Violence, Deaths in Territories Updated

Troops Kill Youth at Camp

TA2410110989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Troops shot and killed a youth yesterday in clashes at the Tulkarm refugee camp, while at least three teenagers were wounded, one of them seriously. [passage omitted]

A curfew was clamped on the camp but stone-throwing clashes continued, and military sources reported two youths injured by rubber bullets. In a separate clash at the camp earlier in the day, two teenagers were wounded by gunfire, Palestinians said.

Bal'a, near Tulkarm, remained under curfew following Sunday's clash in which soldiers shot to death 16-year-old Sonya al-Wawi. Palestinian reports said the troops had opened fire when a group of women tried to prevent soldiers from arresting local youths. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said soldiers opened fire to extricate themselves when they were attacked by stone-throwing villagers. [passage omitted]

In clashes elsewhere in Nabulus, a 15-year-old was shot in the abdomen. And in the casbah, a 12-year-old was shot in the stomach when soldiers opened fire at youths who had taunted them, according to local reports.

Mikhal Sela' adds:

Military sources said that the Gaza Strip was calm yesterday, except for scattered clashes in which no casualties were reported. Palestinian sources, however, reported that six Palestinians were shot by troops and lightly wounded.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 24 October, in a pool report on page 2, adds that there were no incidents in Jerusalem yesterday, "although thousands of Muslims" from East Jerusalem and the territories answered the Jerusalem mufti's call to prayers on the Temple Mount. The report further adds that "the Gaza military court yesterday sentenced Mahmud Isma'il al-'Abdul, 23, to 9 years in prison, plus an additional 3-year suspended sentence, for throwing a firebomb and stones at IDF soldiers."]

Rafah Mukhtar Stabbed

TA2410114089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The mukhtar of the Abu-Duhayr clan has been stabbed by unknown persons in Rafah. He was hospitalized at Beersheba Hospital, and his condition is described as fair to moderate. Strike committees have assumed responsibility for the deed, and graffiti painted on the town walls call the mukhtar a traitor.

A general strike is under way in Tulkarm, protesting the killing of a youth yesterday. The Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus, as well as the Tulkarm and Bal'a refugee camps, remain under curfew. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Youth Killed in Ramallah

TA2410160689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Report by correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in Khirbat Abu-Falah village in the Ramallah District was attacked today with stones by a group of village residents that had set up barricades along the main traffic axes. During the confrontation, several plastic bullets were fired, and one of the attackers, a 16-year-old boy, was seriously injured. He was treated on the spot and taken to the government hospital in Ramallah, but died on the way. The dead youth's name was Diyab Zayd Abu-Ayah.

And another incident in Bayt Sahur, a village that has been a closed military area for quite some time: Three Knesset members [MK's] entered the village without a permit this morning, and left the area upon the IDF's demand. The three MK's, 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, Tawfiq Tubi, and Muhammad Mi'ari, entered the area, although the entire area has been declared a closed military area for several days. The MK's left voluntarily after it was explained to them that they had entered without prior coordination or permission. The IDF announced that it intends to submit a complaint, accusing the MK's and the journalists that accompanied them of entering a closed military area.

Dayr Al-Balah Boy Dies

TA2410203589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] A 12-year-old boy from the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip died today of wounds incurred during disturbances on 19 October. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of his injury.

A 16-year-old youth was seriously injured this afternoon by IDF gunfire in the village of Nazla al-Sharqiyah in the Tulkarm area. IDF sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that an army force encountered a group of rioters which hurled stones at the soldiers. The soldiers fired in the air and afterwards shot plastic bullets at the rioters, wounding an Arab youth named Talal Qatani.

A soldier was lightly injured in the hand in Gaza when a large rock was thrown at him.

Bayt Sahur Residents Detained

TA2510055589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Last night a 40-year-old Janin resident was beaten to death. Police are investigating the murder.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two gas canisters were thrown at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in two separate locations in the Gaza Strip yesterday. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. One canister was thrown at an IDF patrol in Bayt Hanun; the other hit an IDF lookout post in Gaza city.

During the past few days, the Civil Administration detained several Bayt Sahur residents who have been refusing to pay taxes. They will be brought before the Military Court in Ramallah. [passage omitted]

Clashes Reported in Lebanese 'Security Zone'

SLA Kills 2 Near Kafr Hunah

TA2410102889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Two terrorists were killed in a clash with South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops on the security zone border last night. A terrorist squad fired several RPG's at an SLA position near Kafr Hunah in the eastern sector. The SLA soldiers returned fire. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in searches conducted this morning, the bodies of two terrorists were discovered with 60 kg of explosives near them. They were apparently preparing a roadside bomb.

Our correspondent notes that Hizballah groups usually operate in this area.

'Terrorists' Killed by IDF

TA2410182489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Two terrorists were killed this evening during a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the security zone. There were no casualties among our forces. An IDF contingent that was on a routine operation in the security zone encountered a terrorist squad in the central sector of the security zone north of Marj 'Uyun. The IDF soldiers rushed at the terrorists from a short range and killed them.

King Receives Message From Egyptian President

JN2410163589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn today received Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs. Al-Baz conveyed to his majesty the greetings and appreciation of His Excellency President Mubarak. His majesty also received a message from his brother President Husni Mubarak on political developments in the Palestine question.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, his excellency the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Egyptian ambassador to Amman.

Al-Baz arrived in Amman at noon today.

Soviet Friendship Team Holds News Conference

JN2410203189 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Bahjat al-Talhuni, member of the Senate and head of the Jordanian-Soviet Frienship Society, and Alfred Chipanis, deputy prime minister of the Latvian Socialist Soviet Republic and member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium [title as heard], held a press conference today. During the news conference, they reviewed the existing relationship between Jordan and the Soviet Union, as well as a number of regional issues. More in the following report:

[Begin Salim 'Ali Dhiyab video-recording] At the beginning of the press conference, Bahjat al-Talhuni, head of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, expressed Jordan's satisfaction with the distinguished relationship between the two friendly countries. He said the Soviet friendship delegation's visit to Jordan has enabled both sides to further promote these relations. The Latvian deputy prime minister and member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium referred to the importance of this visit and the official contacts held during it. He said Jordanian-Soviet relations, the world's common concerns, and ways of establishing a just and honorable peace in the Middle East were reviewed with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Within this framework, the head of the Soviet frienship delegation indicated that the Soviet-Jordanian and Soviet-Arab stands are identical. The Soviet guest told journalists that the Soviet leadership has prepared a program for addressing nationalities problems in the Soviet Union. He said this program will contribute to resolving these problems through respect for the interests and rights of all nationalities in the Soviet Union, beginning with the resolution of the economic problems which gave rise to national problems there.

Meanwhile, the Soviet friendship delegation left Amman today following a visit to Jordan. [end recording]

Accord Signed With Denmark To Reschedule Debts

JN2510180089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian and Danish Governments today signed an agreement on rescheduling the installments and interest on Danish loans to Jordan. In accordance with the agreement, and on the basis of the agreement signed with the Paris Club on 19 July 1989, the installments and interest of Danish loans since 27 September 1973 will be rescheduled.

The agreement indicates that all the installments of the payments due as of 1 July 1989 until 31 December 1990 will be rescheduled. The rescheduled installments will be paid on the basis of equal semiannual payments, the first of which will be due on 30 September 1995, while the last will be due on 31 March 2000.

The agreement also stipulates the due installments of Danish debts, which went unpaid as of 30 June 1989, will be paid on the basis of 10 equal semiannual payments, the first of which will be due on 30 September 1994, while the last will be due on 31 March 1999.

It is noteworthy that the Danish loans rescheduled in accordance with this agreement are interest-free. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Jordanian Government by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, while the Danish ambassador to Amman signed on behalf of the Danish Government.

CBJ Governor Discusses Exchange Rate, Reserves

JN2410083489 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Oct 89 p 8

[Report on interview with Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, by Sulayman al-Khalid]

[Excerpts] Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], has affirmed that the CBJ is currently studying ways for the Arab Gulf states to support the Jordanian reserves. In a comprehensive interview with AL-WATAN, he disclosed that the initial idea of the Arab Gulf states placing deposits in the CBJ merely as deposits, had been developed to take the form of reserves that can be used if necessary in the future. He said that the delicate mechanism of the Arabian Gulf's financial support is still a subject of discussion and that the issue is persisting as it pertains to future reserves. The governor added that the foreign currency reserves now amount to approximately $450 million obtained from two sources: The first is the official Arab aid, which amounts to $300 million, and the second is from the Jordanian banks, which secured $150 million.

Regarding measures to restore the Jordanian dinar's stability and the purpose of unifying the two exchange

rates of the Jordanian dinar, especially since the two-tier system conflicts with the IMF's policy, the governor said it is well known that the creation of the two rates for the Jordanian dinar was temporary. We created a rate that can be called the banks' rate. At the time, that rate was very close to the free market rate, the unofficial market, or the black market. In fact, the free rate is the rate that is now being applied by the banks.

However, the governor said, there is a very slight difference between the banks' rate and the unofficial rate of no more than 10-25 fils. As a result, the banks' free rate has absorbed nearly all the commercial transactions such as exporting and importing, excluding a very limited group of basic commodities, some invisible expenditures such as students' basic expenditures within certain limits, and some limited expenditures related to medical treatment abroad. He explained that these do not exceed 15 percent of the monetary dealings as a whole in foreign currency.

The governor also said that the official rate applied to these commodities is 635 fils and the banks' free rate is approximately 690 fils. The difference has become only 10 percent after it had been approximately 25 percent.

He also pointed out that the banks' free rate reached 940-950 fils, but then dropped to 690 fils for a decline of more than 30 percent. He added: In fact, we managed to completely control the banks' free rate and we believe that the mechanism of creating two exchange rates has achieved its goals.

The governor added: Now we are discussing the issue of merging the two rates because we believe that the two-tier system is temporary and will not serve the situation from the scientific and economic viewpoint. He also said that the difference may range between 650 and 675 fils, adding: We have no clear-cut limits because we are trying to trace the influence of the free market on the dinar's exchange rate. We are trying to decide what path to take, and we have not defined a goal in advance because the goal will be determined by changes in the free market.

Asked if the current objective of the Jordanian monetary policy is to fix or raise the dinar's exchange rate, Dr al-Nabulsi said: Increasing the dinar's exchange rate is certainly not the objective now. At the beginning, stability in the dinar's rate was the objective. However, we felt that the level reached by the dinar in the free market was influenced to a large extent by factors of fear and mistrust, which intensified at a certain point and led to some capital flight.

The governor said that during the previous period, the CBJ tried to control the rate and make it reach the natural level. He said: Actually, we find that the dinar now stands approximately at its normal rate.

Regarding reports about an imminent drop in the dinar's rate of exchange against the dollar, the CBJ governor denied any intention to make more reductions in the dinar's exchange rate. He added: On the contrary, we believe the current levels will be maintained, or they may even improve slightly.

Asked if the CBJ plans to fix the dinar at specific rates, the governor explained that in these cases the market factors have some influence. He said: Regarding the range we are seeking to achieve for the dinar, we are very interested in not allowing it to go beyond the current limits. [passage omitted]

In terms of the volume of Jordan's hard currency reserves after Jordan managed to raise the reserves from $20 million last May to $500 million, the CBJ governor said that the hard currency reserves are slightly less than $500 million and stand at about $450 million. He said: The greater part of these reserves was built from two sources. The first is official Arab aid, which was slightly more than $300 million, and the second is the banks' reserves, which amounted to between $150 and $160 million and were taken from the banks in addition to what was taken previously. The governor asserted that the Jordanian banks' cash reserves are included in the foreign currency reserves deposited with the CBJ.

The governor said that approximately $320 million of the reserves represent Arab aid which came from different sources—from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq, and Oman.

Asked about the Gulf Cooperation Council member states' plan to place a deposit with the CBJ to bolster foreign currency reserves, Dr al-Nabulsi said that this subject was discussed during our contacts with the Arabian Gulf fraternal states. The subject is still under discussion. We are discussing with our brothers the possibility of building some sort of reserves.

The governor asserted that the plan is not to place a deposit with the CBJ as much as it is to build the CBJ's reserves which can be used in the future if the need arises. He pointed out that, in fact, the idea is not to provide a loan or make a deposit in the true sense of the word. He said: We feel now that we need this as an urgent reserve for the future.

Al-Nabulsi said: Our reserves of hard currency are adequate now. But, I must say that from now on we will have to begin repaying our foreign debts. Therefore, our ability to build ample reserves during the past 3 months was due to the fact that we were not repaying foreign debts. Now, we will begin to repay our debts, and we have great obligations.

He added: We feel that part of the process of continuous control and existing confidence is based on the CBJ's reserves and on the reserves that the brothers would secure for us.

Regarding the financial support expected from the Arab brothers, and whether it will take the form of loans or a deposit, the governor said: Our Arab brothers' financial support for Jordan's reserves is not necessarily a deposit,

but it can take several forms. We are currently studying means through which our brothers can support Jordan's foreign currency reserves.

The governor said: We are currently discussing financial support in the form of a reserve line [khatt lilihtiyat] to be used if needed. He added: The Arab financial support plan was first discussed in the form of deposits. The plan, however, was developed to take the form of a reserve line to be used if needed.

Regarding an expected meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council states to discuss this issue, Dr al-Nabulsi said that the delicate mechanism of financial support is still under discussion. [passage omitted]

Concerning the objectives of the integrated reform program that Jordan has negotiated with the IMF, the governor said: Regarding the balance of payments and foreign currency, the reform program is designed to tangibly increase Jordanian exports and reduce imports. He said that this has actually happened. He said that early 1989 statistics have shown so far an excellent improvement of not less than 15 percent in the volume of exports, and a 20-25 percent drop in imports.

On the features of the austerity plan of current financial policy, the governor pointed out: The previous government started this plan through banning the importation of consumer goods. However, our program now with the World Bank [as published] is to reopen the door for imports on the basis of maintaining customs fees plus consumer tax, in such a way that customs fees would play a major role in the process of reducing consumption. Regarding austerity itself, the Jordanian people can feel this through the reduction of budgetary expenditures. Reductions in expenditure and imports are two basic pillars of austerity. [passage omitted]

He said that the restructuring of the financial sector is a basic and very necessary process. He added: We will maintain it as a very important priority, and we will follow it up carefully. We should not forget that the financial and banking sector is a leading sector, whether for the Jordanian economy or for the economies of the region. Consequently, the restoration of a clean and healthy financial and banking sector is a priority that we will take care of.

Dr al-Nabulsi stressed that there is a feeling now that there is a surplus in the number of banks in Jordan. However, this is a matter of circumstance. I mean that sometimes the market is over-banked and other times it is under-banked. What happened is that it was difficult to say that there was a surplus number of banks and financial institutions in the seventies due to the volume of economic activity. However, under the circumstances of the eighties, where there has been an economic recession in the entire region, it is clear that we are now in a state of over-banking. [passage omitted]

Candidates' Public Debates Banned in Al-Balqa'

JN2410180589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Amman—AL-ITTIHAD—The Jordanian al-Balqa' governor yesterday issued a decision banning public debates between candidates [for the 8 November parliamentary elections] until further notice. A public debate was scheduled to take place among groups of candidates yesterday.

It has been noted that the candidates' banners and statements have gone beyond the limits set by the Jordanian Electoral Law. Meanwhile, the Jordanian Government showed tolerance toward all criticism directed at the Jordanian ruling establishment. The Jordanian prime minister says that the Jordanian Government does not supervise or run the elections. Therefore, it tolerates all these practices.

The al-Balqa' governor's decision was made after sharp criticism was leveled at the former Jordanian prime minister [Zayd al-Rifa'i] during a public debate in the city of al-Salt, when a former minister described him as a thief and said he possessed incriminating documents which he was ready to disclose to anyone wishing to see them.

Another candidate accused the United States of conspiring against Jordan and affirmed that the crisis being experienced by Jordan is the outcome of what the United States wanted.

Paper Comments on Israel's Version of Peace

JN1110151689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Oct 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Israel and Playing the Rejection Game"]

[Text] Finally, but not for the last time, Israel has rejected the 10 Egyptian points on the elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Israel also has continued to adhere to the Shamir plan as the only solution for the Palestine question and the establishment of a "just and comprehensive" peace in the region.

Of course, fraternal Egypt is displeased with this absolutely unjustifiable rejection. The Israeli rejection of the 10 points takes peace efforts back to square one. Therefore, the United States acted promptly through its secretary of state's new proposals to Cairo and Tel Aviv to reactivate the peace process and end the stalemate.

We do not find the Israeli rejection strange because it existed before the 10 points and before all the initiatives, plans, and proposals submitted on the bilateral, regional, or international levels. Israel wants peace according to its own concept only; that is, the peace that enables it to keep the land and gives it the right to occupy more lands to secure the vital range of "greater Israel."

The last American offer will not differ from previous offers. They are modest offers that may not please Israel, but they certainly will not please the Arabs because they are based on Israeli interpretations presented by the Labor Party, which shares the government in the current stage.

Had the United States wanted the peace that the Arabs might want, it would have fulfilled this wish without help from or appeal to anyone.

Had Israel wanted the peace that might please the Arabs, peace would have been realized in the region after the sweeping concessions made by the Arabs in the search for the minimum level of desired peace, which will save the region from the atrocities of war, destruction, and ruin.

But, as we said, Israel wants peace according to its own view; that is, the peace established on the policy of fait accompli. The United States can only succumb absolutely to the peace desired by Israel for an ulterior motive.

Will there be an Arab attempt to understand the peace formula in the region, or are we still deceived by the Israeli peace game until the fait accompli is eventually imposed on the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf?

Support Sought Against Israeli Canal Project

JN1110212789 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 12 Oct 89 p 1, 23

[Excerpt] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that the Jordanian Government has begun to take serious steps to thwart Israel's endeavors to revive its hostile project of building a canal to link the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea. The purpose of this is to steal Arab waters, ruin agricultural areas, and divide the Gaza Strip in two.

Reports add that the Jordanian delegate to the United Nations received instructions from the Foreign Ministry asking him to raise this issue in his meetings with the delegations of large powers and Nonaligned Movement member states. He was instructed to raise the issue during the deliberations of the UN General Assembly session to bring pressure to bear on the enemy authorities to prevent them from implementing this project. Instructions were also issued to the Jordanian ambassador in Washington. He was asked to seek the U.S. Administration's help in making Israel abandon this project and to obtain a U.S. promise that the United States would not provide Israel with any forms of support to help this project come into being.

Israel is currently making serious efforts to revive this project because of the low water level [in the Dead Sea] and to generate electricity. The Israeli authorities hope that the private sector, particularly American Jews, will make an effective contribution toward the implementation of this project. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Reaction to Al-Ta'if Accord

Junblatt on Agreement

PM2510142089 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Oct 89 p 4

[Interview with Druze Leader Walid Junblatt by Thierry Desjardins in Al-Mukhtarah on 22 October]

[Text] Al-Mukhtarah: "We have been duped, but the Al-Ta'if meeting will serve no purpose. Its old Lebanese deputies do not represent anything other than the old regime which we no longer want. You cannot build the future with an old system."

Walid Junblatt stated categorically that he does not want a Lebanese peace "made in Saudi Arabia." However, whether you like it or not, Walid Junblatt is difficult to ignore. He is both the undisputed leader of the 200,000 Lebanese Druzes and one of the undoubted leaders of the Lebanese left. His militia numbers 8,000 men who can and like to fight.

He has inherited the Al-Shuf, his ancestors' Druze kingdom, but, like Kamal, winner of the Lenin prize who was murdered by the Syrians in 1977, he is both a feudal prince and an unrepentant revolutionary.

Yesterday, in the big stone halls of his marvelous medieval castle in Al-Mukhtarah, in a remote mountainous region, he was receiving several dozen of his subjects, as he does every weekend. Walid was arbitrating, deciding, and helping. We then went to his private apartments and he listened to the radio to find out what was happening in al-Ta'if. He exploded with anger.

Walid Junblatt: It is all a ridiculous and pointless game. There can be no compromise with those Maronites. They only want to increase their power and they will not give us any guarantees. Giving me two more deputies will not change anything. Lebanon's only chance is to eradicate confessionalism. But they refuse to hear of that, and the Sunnis, their faithful servants, also reject it. Those people will never understand anything.

LE FIGARO: But surely there is talk of institutional reform?

Walid Junblatt: No, that is untrue. That will not last. The Maronites' only goal was to kick the Syrians out of Lebanon, and they will succeed. In 2 years, the Syrians will be forced to leave the country under the terms of this pseudo-agreement. However, nothing will have changed in 2 years and the Maronites will be stronger than ever. We will only have insignificant powers and Nabih Birri's Shiites will have no more. Moreover, Nabih Birri will be devoured by those Shiite wolves.

LE FIGARO: But, a great deal could happen in 2 years.

Walid Junblatt: What? I will be summoned to Damascus this week, and I will be told to accept the agreement; I have no choice. I will stupidly accept it, and a president will then be elected. I do not need another Maronite president. I will vote for Michel Iddih, because you eat well with him. He is a greedy Marxist. Then a so-called government of national accord will be formed, there will be two or three Druze ministers—not me, at all events, I have done my bit—and they will start discussing these famous reforms. And then everything will fail, because neither the Maronites nor the Sunnis want reforms. After 15 years of war, it will be a paltry result.

LE FIGARO: So?

Walid Junblatt: Well, we must start again from scratch with tougher Maronites, a completely divided left, and Sunnis who are even more hostile than in the past. We, the people who dreamed of a different Lebanon, lose out completely. And the Syrians will leave.

LE FIGARO: Many people want that.

Walid Junblatt: Not me. I much prefer to live under Syrian domination than under Maronite domination.

LE FIGARO: But you are Lebanese....

Walid Junblatt: I needed the Syrians against the Maronites to create a truly modern Lebanon without confessionalism. But Damascus has abandoned me. The Damascus regime is no longer the same, it no longer has courage, it is gradually giving in, Syria is weakening. The Maronite-Sunni-conservative alliance has won against the Alawite-Druze-Shiite minority. And the Soviets have abandoned the Arab world. They now only have South Yemen.

LE FIGARO: What about the Palestinians?

Walid Junblatt: They are people without faith or laws. My father broke up the country for them. He was assassinated because he defended them. I fought for them, I gave 'Arafat military protection, and he is now betraying me.

LE FIGARO: But, if the Lebanese deputies and Syria agree...

Walid Junblatt: Saudi Arabia, which wanted to please the Americans, paid $1 billion to buy everybody, including the Syrian officials who thus guaranteed their personal future. For the Saudis, $1 billion is nothing. Finally, it never costs very much to buy traitors.

LE FIGARO: What do you intend to do?

Walid Junblatt: Beirut airport has been reopened. I could buy a ticket and go to Paris to join Raymond Iddih and all the unfortunate Sunnis who have been living in luxury over there for years. But I will stay and wait. I am on the defensive. For the time being, I cannot do anything, I am only a little Druze, in the minority from all viewpoints.

LE FIGARO: Have you moved closer to Iran?

Walid Junblatt: Yes, I had no choice, and, moreover, the regime in Tehran is changing. We will see. The Arab countries will resent it, but nobody, aside from Saudi Arabia, was helping me. I am forced to make preparations.

Hizballah Radio Condemns Accord

NC2410125189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Station commentary: "The Al-Ta'if Show and the Result in Beirut"]

[Excerpts] The spectacular Lebanese parliamentary show has finally ended in Jeddah, where their excellencies the deputies assembled at the table of the king of the delicious and freshly served conferences. The deputies will receive blessings from his majesty, so that they can distribute them to anyone who visits them when they return home. A few hours later, Lebanese cargo planes will land in Beirut and Halat airports, unloading extremely heavy cargoes of special Saudi garments, beads, rings, and other items. This will be followed by the deputies of the worn-out seats of the chamber who will be carrying with them the charter they passed after much coyness and pampering, give and take, procrastination, and quarreling.

This charter, which the Americans had expected to be passed sometime in the past 2 days as they said yesterday, was blessed by [Saudi King] Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz and was sponsored by the U.S representative who was present in al-Ta'if, as the Americans admitted yesterday when they said they had been in constant touch with al-Ta'if. This charter, which [Phalangist party leader] George Sa'adah viewed as an important achievement for the Maronites, reached Beirut before its signatories did. It ended up on many desks and in many hands, and probably will be passed from one desk to another and one hand to another for some time before being trampled on like past agreements and charters.

The deputies' latest infamous charter brings the Lebanese crisis back to its beginning, nullifies 15 years of war and destruction, portends another 15 years of hell, and prolongs the crisis so that only God Almighty knows in what tragic way it will end. This charter gives everybody the impression that the war in Lebanon broke out because of a disagreement among the disputants over opening a window, parking a car, or avenging someone killed 200 years ago. The ordinary reader will find in the charter strange words and phrases that bear no relation to his own understanding or interpretation of the truth of the crisis, its causes, and its stages. It contains language that has nothing to do with the problems of someone whose rights have been usurped, who has suffered injustice in his own home, and who is the constant victim of aggression. In the so-called charter there are some incredible lies that no one of sound mind would believe. The war did not break out so that the number of deputies would become 108 or so that the sons, brothers, and uncles of the deceased deputies would inherit the seats of their fathers, grandfathers, and friends. The war did not erupt in Lebanon so that the term of the parliament speaker might be extended. The houses, towns, and neighborhoods in Lebanon were not leveled for the sake of a charter such as the one conceived in al-Ta'if and delivered in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

The funny thing about this charter is that it bypassed all the causes of the problem as well as the peaceful solutions to the crisis. If the big-bellied deputies ignored all the facts, feelings, and principles of a people and a homeland, disregarded all dignity and sense, and sold the pains, tragedies, and predicaments of a people who have suffered dearly to attain their true rights, then this same people will bypass all written and verbal documents and agreements and will ignore all those people who filled their stomachs with the fattening Saudi meals and whatever comes after al-Ta'if. Our oppressed people know how to determine their destiny and chart their future with dignity, because all that happended in al-Ta'if concerns only those present there. So let those present there pay the bills for a hospitality and an agreement that our people do not want to those who hosted, sponsored, and blessed the occasion. Sooner or later, these deputies will also have to pay the bill for their treason to our noble people.

Maronite Patriarch Welcomes Accord

NC2410113289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Asked by the newspaper AL-NAHAR for his views on the results of the al-Ta'if meetings, Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr said: Reports from al-Ta'if indicate that the Lebanese deputies have agreed to adopt the stand dictated by their national conscience. This is proof that they feel their grave responsibility at this critical time in the life of the country. We thank God for the agreement that has been reached, which in any case is an essential demand at present.

The patriarch added: We hope that efforts will be pursued to restore peace and stability to Lebanon under conditions of full independence and sovereignty. We thank the higher tripartite Arab committee for the great efforts it has undertaken on Lebanon's behalf. We have no doubt it will continue its good offices to complete the mission entrusted to it by the Casablanca summit.

Eastern Deputies on Situation

NC2410172489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The Information Ministry team in al-Ta'if has informed us that after issuing a statement yesterday refuting General 'Awn's allegations against them, the

eastern area deputies resumed their contacts and consultations today to consider what stands they must take to confront Michel 'Awn's provocative campaign against them.

The team points out that the eastern area's media campaign against the al-Ta'if agreement will not affect the united and firm position which the area's deputies adopted in al-Ta'if.

Amal Movement Criticizes Plan

NC2510071589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Amal Movement's political bureau and executive committee held a joint meeting under the chairmanship of Minister Nabih Birri yesterday. A statement released at the end of the meeting noted that the draft reform plan formulated at the parliamentary meetings in al-Ta'if can only result in the subjugation of the Lebanese people by the present regime. The plan, the statement adds, runs counter to the concept of national accord.

However, the participants in the meeting praised those deputies who expressed reservations over the plan or refused to vote for it. They noted that these deputies have instead adopted several resolutions to implement their stands through intensive consultations on the local, Arab, and international levels.

Front Urges 'Flexible' Stand

NC2510164389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese Front met today and expressed appreciation of the role played by its leader Dr George Sa'adah and its deputies in the al-Ta'if conference. This stand, the front said, is in keeping with its previous views regarding the resistance of all forms of occupation and the restoration of national sovereignty.

The front also praised the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee to end the fighting, restore stability, and revive Lebanese reconciliation, in preparation for establishing of the strong, just, and sovereign state power throughout Lebanon.

The front underscored its eagerness to preserve the unity of the Christian ranks in the face of all developments and challenges. Such unity, the front says, is a necessary condition for the success of all solutions and efforts. The front weighed carefully the positions of all parties and urged all officials and leaders to be flexible in their dealings with all the Arab and international resolutions, with a view to promoting the positive aspects of these resolutions and diminishing the negative, the goal being to end all the occupations, terminate the Syrian control of Lebanon's destiny, and secure all the guarantees for the achievement of liberation, reconciliation, and peace.

After the meeting, Eng Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, voiced that hope that the presidential elections would take place. He pointed out that divisions do not exist in East Beirut and are unacceptable.

Al-Musawi Condemns Accord

NC2610080889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has stated that the Lebanese system cannot be reformed or improved by those deputies who supported the 17 May 1983 agreement [between Lebanon and Israel] and others like them who work in the slave trade. He said that the al-Ta'if accord agreed on by the deputies has achieved the Zionist entity's aim of establishing a Christian entity in Lebanon subservient to Israel and the United States. This accord has consolidated political sectarianism and Maronite privileges.

Brother al-Musawi added: We do not agree to jump over the pools of innocent blood and the sacrifices of our struggling kinsfolk so as to strengthen the position of some people in the Chamber of Deputies and the cabinet, who are falsely counted among the national and Islamic ranks. These people are in fact servants of the Maronite crusaders in this country.

Leaflets Denounce 'Awn's Stand

NC2610094089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Well-informed sources in the eastern area have reported that leaflets were distributed in the areas of 'Awkar, 'Ayn al-Rmmanah, and al-Ashrafiyah [in the eastern area] last night denouncing General Michel 'Awn's stand on the results of the al-Ta'if meetings.

Further on Leaflets

NC2610151689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Amid the confusion and tension prevailing in the eastern area, it is reported that leaflets supporting the al-Ta'if agreement were widely distributed in various neighborhoods today, particularly al-Ashrafiyah. The leaflets are signed by the Alliance of Lebanese Christian Officers and contain a sharp attack on 'Awn's policy and reckless actions. One such leaflet reads: Brother citizen, we advise you not to continue to support Michel 'Awn, who alleges he is conducting a war of liberation, and not to believe his false allegations, because this insane man will not hesitate to sacrifice you and your family for the sake of holding on to power. The leaflet, which is addressed to the citizens of the eastern area, adds that 'Awn made the liberation claim in order to remain in power, not because he wanted liberation for its own sake. The leaflet says that all the facts will be revealed in the coming days or in the near future.

According to the reports, the al-Yarzah forces, which attempted to collect all the leaflets from the streets, have begun an extensive investigation in order to discover the identities of the officers responsible for them. They have raided the houses of many officers. Meanwhile, unusual military moves are taking place and 'Awn's forces and those of his opponents and the Phalangist forces have been put on alert.

'Awn Asks Deputies To Return 'Quickly' for Talks

NC2610093589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Statement issued by the Cabinet Information Office in B'abda on 26 October]

[Text] In view of the gravity of the situation created by the al-Ta'if talks and the effects the situation may have on national destiny at this delicate stage in our national life, General 'Awn hopes the deputies will return quickly to Lebanon for deliberations on the national course that must be adopted to safeguard the homeland's sovereignty and the people's will.

'Awn on U.S. Stand, Israeli Withdrawal

JN2410211689 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Oct 89 p 20

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese military government, by Tariq Madi in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Madi] The present stage is marked by the search for a quick Lebanese settlement pending the postponed regional solution. There is a search for a settlement that will not be opposed by you, including the issue of the venue. What is your opinion?

['Awn] There is neither a settlement nor a solution in the Middle East; there is an attempt to liquidate the Lebanese by a solution. What is the solution and what are the features? There is no solution, but an attempt to liquidate Lebanon, as I said. We are resisting this attempt. There cannot be a solution that we do not already know. Who will work in accordance with this solution? Where are the features of this solution? I challenge all the politicians in the world and Lebanon.

[Madi] Where there is a solution there will be concessions in light of the balance of power. The present equation comes through the Arab and international understanding of the settlement that is based on the following: Restoring the structural unity of Lebanese authority—one government, one army, and a united Lebanon when the region is called on for the international conference. This is the issue now. Will this satisfy you?

['Awn] This is wrong, because what is required now is to cancel Lebanon. This is what is required now in light of these settlements that emerged successively within Lebanon. The course of these developments is spiralling downward so that Lebanon will reach the bottom at the end. You cannot think now while ignoring the old solutions.

What is the settlement? It is putting Lebanon into continuous trouble so that no independent identity will emerge and every Lebanese force that emerges will be stricken. I warned the world that I am not plotting against Lebanon. I stood in the face of Israeli hegemony and U.S. hegemony that works to come up with a settlement with consolation awards at the expense of Lebanon in the interest of Israel. Even in the new U.S. plot, two heads are wanted—those of Yasir 'Arafat and Michel 'Awn. 'Arafat's head is wanted to assassinate the demand for Palestine. And my assassination aims at assassinating the Lebanese state. Why is 'Arafat's head wanted? The answer is to assassinate the Palestinian state of affairs that emerged after the intifadah.

[Madi] It is known that the Lebanese war started with a Lebanese-Palestinian struggle. But the crisis reached its climax when the Palestinians departed Beirut first and Tripoli later. However, the Palestinians, who were fought by the Lebanese forces and the Lebanese parties, were allowed to return through the port of Juniyah. What changed your policy and made Yasir 'Arafat your ally after he had been your foe?

['Awn] Before anything else, people were talking about the conspiracy against the Palestinians in Lebanon. When I had the rank of major—and I keep documents on this in the archives—I used to say that it is not logical to talk about support for Palestinians "from the Gulf to the ocean" while giving them only a little place for free movement—a place within the range of the Israeli mortar, an I do not say gun. There is a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinians in Lebanon, and the Lebanese, especially the Christians, should not put on the cap of this crime. [passage omitted]

Why is Lebanon not allowed to build its own strong army to maintain its independence? And why should the world be concerned whether this is achieved through a fair or a tyrannical regime?

The world cooperates with the dirtiest regimes. The United States cooperates with the most shameless regimes to secure its interests, and we do not want to reiterate examples of this. What is their business? Why isn't there a strong army in Lebanon? Why are we not allowed to possess a single cruiser? Why? Because we threaten Israel's security. [passage omitted]

[Madi] In all your statements and meetings, you concentrate on the subject of Syrian withdrawal. What is your position regarding Israeli withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution No 425?

['Awn] General 'Awn seizes every opportunity to discuss means of implementing Resolution No 425 and withdrawing the Israeli forces from the south. But how can I

guarantee the implementation of an international resolution while I am unable to get to the south? Let us first have an Arab base so that we can move to the south later. I cannot give the United Nations assurances of maintaining security in the border area when I lack the internationally accepted minimum level of control over the border needed if an agreement is reached, a withdrawal is achieved, or Resolution No 425 is implemented. The resolution provides for an effective presence of the Lebanese army together with the UN forces in the area. I am currently incapable of achieving this. [passage omitted]

'Awn Speaks to Demonstrators on Elections

NC2510134489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Addressing a demonstration at B'abda Palace today, General Michel 'Awn said: Let the deputies return here to the source of decision, your decision, which is the source of all authority wherever it is. Here is Gen 'Awn:

[Begin 'Awn recording] Oh youth of Lebanon, who have become oaks and cedars deeply rooted into this holy land [word indistinct] will remain for you. Woe unto any nation that sacrifices its youth for its elders. [cheers] Today I repeat this saying. I say today to those who are trying to hold presidential elections outside their proper location: Return here to the source of decision, your decision, which is the source of all power wherever it is. [cheers]

They ask us to maintain unity of ranks, but there are certain requirements for such unity. These are not capitulation and humiliation, but rather free existence with national dignity, sovereignty, and independence. Long live you, long live Lebanon. [cheers] [end recording]

Resistance Issues Statement on 24 Oct 'Ambush'

NC2510162989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front has issued a statement containing details of a clash with the Israeli occupation forces in Dibbin. The statement mentions that the Martyr Muhammad al-Hujayri unit and the comrades of Suha Bisharah laid an ambush for two enemy patrols on 'Arid Dibbin road, cutting the road leading from Dibbin to (al-Rakayiz) roadblock.

At 1700 the fighters sighted advanced parties of the enemy force approaching the ambush on two axes. The fighters waited until the rest of the enemy forces were within range. When enemy troops were only 10 meters away from the fighters, the latter hurled grenades at the two patrols and sprayed them with bullets at close quarters, taking them completely by suprise, a fact admitted by the enemy radio on its 2230 newscast yesterday.

The enemy soldiers began to flee the scene after the attack, under cover of sporadic fire provided by the rear units of the partrols. Five of the enemy soldiers were wounded in the 15-minutes clash. The enemy then brought in reinforcements to the area and imposed a large security cordon there extending from al-Balat to Burghuz and covering Dibbin and (al-Rakayiz) roadblock. Enemy helicopters flew overhead, firing flares.

At 1800 the enemy forces began to close in on the fighters from three directions: Dibbin, 'Arid Dibbin, and al-Rakayiz roadblock. The fighters assembled themselves in preparation to break through the enemy cordon. The fighters engaged the enemy forces near (al-Rakayiz) roadblock in clashes until 2030, when the fighters managed to break through the enemy lines. The enemy later brought in fresh reinforcements to prevent the fighters from retreating, and deployed troops along the road between Burghuz and (al-Rakayiz) roadblock.

Mountain Areas Come Under Fire of 'Awn Forces

NC2510183089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] As 'Awn flexes his muscles within the eastern area, his gangs continue to violate the cease-fire agreement by attacking civilians in the mountain. Kayfun has been subjected to sniper fire in which a civilian car was hit, wounding one passenger.

In another development this afternoon, Kayfun and the road leading to it came under heavy machinegun fire. The Baysur-[name indistinct] road was the target of similar fire.

Situation Termed 'Tense' Along Combat Lines

NC2610063889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The situation became tense on the Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, and al-Barbir lines at approximately 2230 last night. Explosions and bursts of machinegun fire were heard near military positions facing each other on the combat lines. A number of shells fell on residential areas in Ra's al-Nab'.

A security source has reported that military positions in the eastern area directed machinegun, rocket, and artillery fire at residential areas in Ra's al-Nab', causing a number of casualties.

Soldier Killed in Overnight Clashes

NC2610071389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Clashes involving the use of automatic weapons and rockets took place last night on the combat lines in the old commercial center, Sodeco, Primo, al-Barjawi,

and Ra's al-Nab'. The clashes, which continued until dawn today, resulted in the death of a Lebanese Army soldier.

Israeli Gunboats Open Fire at Fishing Harbor

NC2610065089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] A military source in the Amal Movement has reported that Israeli gunboats approached and opened fire on a fishing harbor on the al-Sarafand coast at 2100 last night. Amal gunmen confronted them with automatic and rocket fire. The gunboats retreated back to sea.

Meanwhile, the banks of the al-Litani River south of al-Nabatiyah came under machinegun fire from a position held by the occupation forces in the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah area last night.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian Forces in Tripoli

NC2610084989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that a unit of its al-Fajr forces opened fire at a roadblock manned by special Syrian Army units on the Tripoli-Dahr al-'Ayn road at 0430 today, killing one Syrian solider and wounding another. The Syrian forces searched nearby orchards after the incident.

For the sake of the citizens' safety, the organization advises them to stay away from Syrian positions.

Military Movements Monitored; Roadblocks Set

NC2610122389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Security authorities monitored mechanized military movements in the areas of Antilyas and al-Rabiyah at dawn today. A large number of roadblocks were set up in the area.

Leaflets issued by a group called the Alliance of Lebanese Christian Officers [Tahaluf al-Dubbat al-Masihiyin al-Lubnaniyin] were distributed in most of the Christian areas last night calling on both the military and civilians not to support General Michel 'Awn, because his so-called liberation war has led to ruination and destruction.

Rocket Falls in Kayfun; Israeli Planes Overfly South

NC2610092689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah ['Awn forces] militias continue to violate the cease-fire. A rocket fired from a militia position fell in Kayfun a short time ago.

In another development, Israeli warplanes flew over the south, the coast, and the mountain at 1055 today, breaking the sound barrier.

Attacks on Kayfun Continue

NC2610132089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah army gangs are continuing to violate the cease-fire. They carried out rocket and machinegun attacks against Kayfun from their positions in the officers' building this afternoon. These gangs began their provocations this morning when they fired a rocket from Qal'at al-Hisn at Kayfun.

Meanwhile, Israeli fighter aircraft made low-altitude flights over the camps near Sidon at 1400 today. The planes drew anti-aircraft fire.

Officials Confer With Arab League's Ibrahimi

JN2510192789 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1945 this evening Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general and the Arab tripartite committee's envoy.

They reviewed the workings of the Lebanese deputies' meetings in al-Ta'if, the results of these meetings, and means of implementing the steps approved during these meetings.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening also received Lakhdar Ibrahimi. During the meeting, talks centered on the results of the Lebanese deputies' meetings in al-Ta'if.

Ibrahimi had arrived in Damascus from Jeddah this afternoon. He was received by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur.

Interior Minister Meets Turkish Official

JN2510171289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 25 Oct (SANA)—Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah this morning met with Egot Uzar [name as received], governor of Mardin Province in Turkey, in the presence of the al-Hasakah governor. They discussed bilateral relations and concern over continuing the neighborly relationship.

Mr Uzar expressed his gratitude for having the opportunity of this visit. He affirmed the importance of promoting and developing bilateral relations to serve the interest of the two people in the neighboring countries.

Daily on 'Collective Responsibility' of Deputies

JN2310080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The al-Ta'if Harvest," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The al-Ta'if meeting has entered its final moments and the black clouds have disappeared. Indeed, a glimpse of light has appeared at the end of the long Lebanese tunnel and the first rays of a new Lebanese dawn have become visible. AL-BA'TH says: The final outcome of the al-Ta'if meeting is made by the deputies and for the sake of entire Lebanon. Nobody can claim that this collective responsibility is incomplete. The al-Ta'if meeting has resulted in a collective parliamentary orientation the results of which must also be a collective responsibility.

AL-BA'TH affirms that what is important is not what has been committed to paper in terms of formulas and expressions, but to shoulder the responsibility of implementing these formulas and expressions on the ground so that Lebanon would be able to enjoy peace and tranquility after 15 years of war and fighting.

AL-BA'TH says: In view of what took place in al-Ta'if and with the Lebanese' readiness to relinquish violence and fighting and to take to reconstruction and affection, it can be said that no Lebanese needs to be told any more who is his homeland's foe or friend. No longer do the Lebanese need to be told who sent the weapons of death and destruction to fight until the last Lebanese is killed, and until the last Lebanese house is destroyed in order to achieve sick dreams and settle rancorous accounts. Nor do they have to be told who extended a hand of brotherhood and assistance to the entire Lebanese people, with all their factions and sects, to avert bloodshed, maintain Lebanon's unity, and extinguish the fires of sedition and war.

AL-BA'TH adds: In this regard, we do not want to talk about Syria's brotherly and pan-Arab stands on Lebanon. These stands are self-explanatory. It suffices to indicate that these stands have once again proved their honesty and credibility in al-Ta'if. History will assert that what Syria and leader al-Asad have extended throughout the al-Ta'if meeting and during its final difficult moments has been essential to dot the i's and make this meeting a success and to spread its benefits over all Lebanon and Lebanese. This confirms leader al-Asad's constant decision that Syria will remain alongside Lebanon to aid it until the anomalous situation is over and until the Lebanese brothers reach full national accord.

Paper Calls Al-Ta'if Agreement 'Dividing Line'

JN2510124489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Beginning and the Historic Task," AL-BA'TH says: The results which were achieved by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if constitute a dividing line between two conflicting phases. Tampering with Lebanon's destiny as well as the the irresponsible continuation of the plan of destruction and killing have disappeared as a result of the determination of the Lebanese people, the Arabs, and the international community to save a country from a bloody ordeal that has gripped it for over 15 years.

AL-BA'TH adds: This determination has certainly placed a dividing line between that phase, which was the worst in the history of the Lebanese tragedy, and a new phase, whose beginning is marked by brilliant hope and diligent work that will match the accord document on the ground. Following the Lebanese deputies' completion of their work in al-Ta'if and their return to the homeland, which they have been working to save from the claws of Zionist domination and its agent tools, the difficult task will begin to implement the provisions of the national accord, grant the document legitimacy, and

elect a president to demonstrate, along with the constitutional institutions, the homeland's entity and unity. Then comes the great national and pan-Arab responsibility of confronting the Zionist occupation and liberating the entire Lebanese territories from the Israeli invader.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria, which has supported fraternal Lebanon against the Zionist enemy, will not abandon it during the construction phase. Lebanon will no longer be a victim of the moods of its enemies, including those who have ambitions on its wealth and territories or those who tried to make personal gains at the expense of a nation who has sufferened from disasters and who has the right to get rid of its sufferings. [passage omitted]

In its main editorial today, TISHRIN says: At a time when satisfaction prevails in Lebanon and the Arab and international arena as a result of the resolutions adopted by the al-Ta'if meetings, and at a time when the Lebanese hope for salvation and feel confident that the fire which has destroyed a large part of Lebanon will be extinguished, the al-Yarzah general alone opposes the Lebanese unanimity on accord and condemns their opting for life and coexistence. 'Awn went far beyond that when he accused the deputies of treason, especially since the deputies had been trying over the past 3 weeks to achieve an honorable and just national solution that can guarantee security, stability, and equality for every one.

TISHRIN adds: Such an abnormal position by 'Awn has not surprised any one and raises no astonishment because he was entrusted with the task of hampering any effort to end the Lebanese crisis and destroying any possibility of Lebanese accord, and disrupting security and stability in this country which is full of wounds. [passage omitted]

Intifadah Marked by 'Martyrdom' of Children

PM2510160589 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 17 Oct 89 p 2

['Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Rahim article: "Precious Blood and the Conspiracy"]

[Text] Palestinian blood... Can it open the files of the Palestinian cause? Many want to close these files out of concern for the reputation of the imperialist system—a system that continues to provide the Zionist entity with the means of arrogance, crime, and murder.

This question-answer comes to mind with the announcement by a Zionist hospital of the martyrdom of 'Atiyyah al-Firyani, aged 3, after he sustained a fatal head injury last Thursday from the occupation forces' bullets. The number of children killed by the occupation authorities since the intifadah started is 125 martyrs. Yesterday alone, 15 pupils were wounded by the occupier's bullets at al-Rashidiyah Secondary School in Old Jerusalem.

So what has the world done for Palestine's children who are being killed by the official authority of terror represented by Tel Aviv's rulers? Have observers not noted that Washington has provided nothing for them other than the five points announced by Baker? These points fall into the category of attempts designed to close the Palestinian issue and destroy its file.

Washington is concerned about lost democracy in every country in the world, finances rebels, and supplies them with both personnel and equipment. What is strange is that its democratic sense is still not awakened by the occupation army soldiers killing 125 national children from among the sons of an unarmed people rejecting occupation and demanding their freedom and independence.

The Zionist sources have counted the victims and revealed the children's ages and where they were killed, but Washington—like other forces which are supposed to be in the same trench in which these children were killed—remains silent.

These children are brothers and sons of other nationalists whose number exceeds 800 martyrs. They were killed over less than 2 years by the same hands stained with children's blood. This comes in addition to the thousands of wounded and the detainees who are suffering from the occupation authority's official terrorism.

It is that blood alone which will open the Palestinian file in spite of the will of those conspiring against its national cause. And, for its part, the valiant intifadah is closing the files of concealment and abrogation, aborting the conspiracy, and reaffirming to everyone its national position represented by the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

Thus the national position is emerging from the occupied territories not to plead for the murderers' sympathy, bow to the will of hegemony, or impose the status quo policy. Instead, the people of the territories are continuing the march of the national struggle and confronting plans hostile to the will of the Arab people. These people have offered up their victims for the sake of independence and freedom, not for the sake of capitulation at the negotiating table.

How high and terrible will the price be if "some of them" abandoned that precious blood, and what will history write when it talks about Palestine's martyred children and the policies which shed that blood, whatever the reasons?

We believe that the time has come for the Arabs, all the Arabs, to pause at a painful fact which is a slap in everyone's face; namely, that what these children are facing today is also silently prepared for Arab children as a whole—that is, if "some" let the conspiracy pass silently.

Afghanistan

Interim Government To Discuss Soviet Talks

BK2510114289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 25 (AFP)—Moscow has said it was willing to open direct talks with the mujahidin on a peace settlement in Afghanistan, a resistance leader said here on 25 October after talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Najibullah Lafrai, the information minister in the mujahidin interim government, said Ms. Bhutto had "expressed the possibility" of talks with the Soviet Union. It was not clear when the Soviet offer had been made.

He said top mujahidin leaders headed by interim government President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi had held detailed talks with Ms. Bhutto late Tuesday in which she had "reaffirmed Pakistan's strong support" for the resistance in its fight against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

The Pakistan-based interim government's Cabinet would now discuss the possibility of direct talks with Moscow, Dr. Lafrai said, adding that "we would be ready for talks," and that "there should be no objection." However, implicitly demanding recognition for the eight-month-old interim government, he stressed that Moscow should invite a formal delegation, not just individuals as Afghan resistance leaders.

He ruled out talks with Afghan President Najibullah echoing Islamabad's stand that the Kabul leader should step down to remove the only obstacle to finding a peaceful solution of the 11-year-old conflict.

Tuesday's meeting was the first since Ms. Bhutto returned home from the week-long Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, during which Commonwealth leaders called for an "early start to an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based government."

At a press conference last week in Kuala Lumpur Ms. Bhutto said her government was "encouraging the mujahidin leaders to respond positively to the Soviet offer." She also reiterated her commitment to a political solution, saying it should involve a broad-based government, but ruled out peace talks while President Najibullah was in charge.

Mr. Mojaddedi earlier met with opposition leader Nawaz Sharif in Lahore who told the mujahidin president that support for the jihad (holy war) was the cornerstone of his Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) party's policy.

Dr. Lafrai termed President Najibullah's move to form a national salvation party as his "latest gimmick," adding that the "names of Afghans who command some respect have been included to mislead the public." Without naming them he said the "old people have either been bribed or forced to join the regime conspiracy," adding they had been asked "to clarify their position."

If members of the party arrived for talks "we will not see them," Dr. Lafrai said, adding that the exercise was a "Soviet plot and doomed to fail like similar earlier moves."

The 15-member National Salvation Society was formed on September 30 by a group of leading local figures, including former government members under deposed King Zahir Shah. The group's members, describing themselves as "neutral and liberal thinking" have called for the "establishment of a state system based on the principles of the sacred religion of Islam, national history and culture."

Dr. Lafrai also lashed out at a United Nations food distribution programme in Afghanistan dubbed "Salam," meaning peace, saying it was "being used to promote the regime propaganda against mujahidin." He said the head of the operation Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan had not consulted the mujahidin on the operation. The operation involves a special train chartered by the Soviet Union carrying 750,000 U.S. dollars worth of food and material donated by Finland, which arrived last week at Hairatan on the Soviet-Afghan border.

A U.N. official said the aid would be distributed in the northern Afghan Provinces of Badakhshan, Badghis, Herat, Samangan, and Faryab to "needy Afghans, whatever their political affiliation may be."

Dr. Lafrai said Kabul had begun a campaign to defame mujahidin Northern Command Chief Ahmad Shah Mas'ud for "disrupting movement of food for starving people in Kabul," where part of the U.N. aid would also be sent.

"This type of U.N. operation is going to have negative consequences," he warned, adding that instead of allowing its misuse the U.N. should discuss the distribution system with the mujahidin.

Kabul Offers Prisoners for Soviet POW's

BK2510154889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 25 (AFP)—The Kabul regime is ready to swap 45 Afghan rebels, 25 Pakistanis and three Arabs for two Soviet prisoners of war (POW's) held by the rebels, the leader of a Soviet organization seeking the POW's release said Wednesday [25 October].

Iona Andronov told a news conference that the exchange would set a precedent for the release of other Soviet POW's and thousands of rebels in Afghan jails.

According to official figures released in Moscow, 313 Soviet soldiers were missing when Moscow withdrew its troops from Afghanistan last February.

Mr. Andronov accused the mujahidin leaders of "delaying" the process of releasing prisoners, saying he had not received replies to the offer extended last week.

He said that he had held four rounds of talks with mujahidin leaders since his arrival in Pakistan on September 9, and the rebels had given a list of 45 Afghans and three Arabs they wanted released.

The authorities in Kabul and Moscow confirmed that the prisoners were in jails and agreed to release them against two Soviet POW's, Mr. Andronov said.

He added that 25 Pakistani prisoners whom he met in the Pul-i-Charkhi prison of Kabul this summer will also be released as "a goodwill gesture" for the cooperation provided by Pakistan to the Soviet POW organization.

Mujahidin leaders were stalling the negotiations and were not even ready to arrange the delivery of letters written by the mothers and families of the Soviet POW's, he said. The letters, with pictures of families attached, were shown to reporters.

Mr. Andronov said that the leader of the mujahidin delegation for the negotiations has gone abroad without mentioning the date of his return. The Soviet delegate did not name the leader, but added: "I don't understand why the mujahidin are not caring for their people."

He said that during a meeting in Kabul last summer, Afghan President Najibullah told him that 4,000 rebel prisoners were in Afghan prisons.

Mr. Andronov visited Pakistan in June with four mothers whose sons are missing. He held meetings in which mujahidin leaders said that about 40,000 of their men were missing and that they wanted the exchange of prisoners in bulk.

Ministry Protests Pakistani 'State Terrorism'

LD2510212489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Information and Publication Directorate of the Foreign Ministry reported that the Pakistan charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned this morning to the Foreign Ministry, and the following points were made to him by the acting head of the General Political Directorate:

According to information from security sources of the country, a number of U.S., Saudi, and Pakistani advisers landed in the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, brought in by a Pakistani helicopter to assist the commanders attached to the so-called Seven-Party Alliance formation stationed in Pakistan.

The report says that two helicopters brought the above advisers to Asadabad City, capital of Konar Province, at 0910 on 22 October and after carrying out the mission left the area at 1130.

Two Pakistani jet aircraft also carried out reconnaisance flights at the speed of 600 km per hour and height of 7,000 meters on the border at 1456 the same day.

The responsible security sources of the country also reported that during the period of over 1 month, that is to say from 23 September to 25 October, the Pakistani-backed extremists fired 258 missiles at city centers and residential regions killing 122 and injuring 327 compatriots of ours, destroying 14 government buildings and 23 residential houses.

In strongly denouncing the policy of state terrorism and violation of the Geneva accords by the Government of Pakistan, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan lodges its strong protest with the authorities of this country [Pakistan] and points out that the dangerous consequences of such irresponsible actions will rest with Pakistan.

Notes 879, 880 on Violations Given to UN Mission

BK2510094289 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] As many as 23 instances of flagrant violations by Pakistan of provisions of the Geneva agreements were brought to the attention of the United Nations Good Offices Mission team in Kabul yesterday through Notes 879 and 880 of the Foreign Ministry. Presenting precise and documented information on the Pakistani violations, the notes called on the United Nations mission to investigate into the cases as per Paragraph 7, Document No 4 of the Geneva agreements and convey the result to the concerned parties as soon as possible.

PDPA Central Committee Changes Announced

LD2510134489 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, 25 Oct (BAKHTAR)—A People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee plenum this morning, chaired by esteemed Najibullah, PDPA general secretary and president of Afghanistan, discussed undelayable duties of the PDPA for reaching peace in the circumstances of independent defense.

Muhammad Wali, head of the PDPA Central Committee Organization Department in a briefing explaining the plenum documents held in the Foreign Ministry's Stor Palace, talked to domestic and foreign journalists and answered their questions.

Muhammad Wali said that in the plenum two issues had been discussed, the undelayable duties of the PDPA to reach peace in the circumstances of independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, and organizational matters.

On the second issue of the agenda, organizational matters were discussed. As a result Mir Saheb Karwal and Farid Ahmad Mazdak were promoted to permanent

membership of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. They were alternate members.

Sulayman La'eq, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and minister of tribes, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, first secretary of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan, and Nazar Muhammad, minister of construction affairs, were unanimously appointed secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee.

As many as 19 PDPA members were appointed full members of the PDPA Central Committee and one person was appointed alternate member by the plenum. Two PDPA Central Committee members were removed from membership.

The plenum continues, and its complete minutes will be published later through the mass media.

Further on Changes

BK2610102889 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] The plenum of the the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], presided over by esteemed Najib, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in connection with the undeniable duties of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan's members for the soonest restoration of peace under the prevailing situation of independently defending of the country, was convened today in Kabul.

Muhammad Wali, in charge of the Organizational Department of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, in a briefing which was held in the [word indistinct] Palace of Foreign Ministry, explained the documents of the plenum to the attendees, including a number of foreign journalists and cultural attaches of foreign embassies to Kabul and replied their questions.

Wali Muhammad [as heard] in the briefing said that in the plenum of the Central Committee of People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan two articles of agenda regarding to the undeniable tasks of the PDPA members in connection with the soonest restoration of peace in the country under the independently defending of the Republic of Afghanistan and the organizational issues of the party were discussed. [sentence as heard] As a result, Mir Saheb Karwal and Farid Ahmad Mazdak were unanimously promoted from alternate members to the full members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Sulayman La'eq, Politburo member of the Central Committee of PDPA and minister of tribal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan; Farid Ahmad Mazdak, Politburo member of the Central Committee of PDPA and first secretary of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan; and Nazar Muhammad, minister of construction of the Republic of Afghanistan, were unanimously elected as secretaries of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Likewise, in this plenum 19 members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan were promoted to full members and one to alternate member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and two were relieved from their membership of the Central Committee of PDPA.

The work of the plenum of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic party of Afghanistan was concluded in an amicable and friendly atmosphere.

Mujahidin Leader Discusses Current Situation

PM2510160589 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 22 Oct 89 p 5

[Telephone interview with Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, "president of Muslim Afghanistan," in Peshawar by Muhammad Mahjub; date not given]

[Text] Professor Sebghatullah Mojadeddi says: The mujahidin's military position is good; suffice it to say that the Kabul regime has so far failed to control a single inch of the liberated territory.

Asked by 'UKAZ about the reasons for the failure to capture Kabul and the delay in liberating Jalalabad, President Mojadeddi said: It is not easy to enter Kabul, because the Soviet Union still has not completely withdrawn from Afghanistan. The Soviets have withdrawn physically, but they now provide more backing for the agent government than before. The Soviets provide monthly aid totaling over $600 million to the Kabul regime. This is in addition to the presence of their agents and military advisers in Kabul.

He added: Following the announcement of complete Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan we thought we would be able to capture Kabul within a few months, but we have discovered that the Soviets are still there, with their extensive backing for the Kabul regime. In Kabul there are now bases for Soviet Scud missiles run by Russian specialists. These missiles have a 600-km range and can hit Pakistan from Kabul. Although we have received no significant aid over the past few months, we have continued the military pressure on the Kabul regime, and Jalalabad is under total siege, and so is Khowst.

[Mahjub] Does the dispute with Hekmatyar have anything to do with the delay in capturing Jalalabad and Kabul?

[Mojadeddi] No. There are disputes, but that has nothing to do with our delay in capturing Kabul, though Hekmatyar continues to attack mujahidin groups.

[Mahjub] Do you not believe that such disputes are bound to reduce Islamic backing for you?!

[Mojadeddi] Of course, but who is responsible for the dispute?! It is one person and one organization. The other organizations are united.

Hekmatyar pulled out of the government, and I entrusted Shaykh Sayyaf with supervising the Foreign Ministry until another suitable person can be appointed. [Mojadeddi ends]

Then we mentioned to President Mojadeddi what some people are circulating the possibility of partitioning Afghanistan, so he said: No way. They [not further identified] will never succeed. Then he added: No one expected the poor, unarmed Afghan people to be able to resist the mightiest military forces in the world. But we succeeded and formed a government, and we shall continue our jihad to uplift God's word.

[Mahjub] Will elections be held shortly?

[Mojadeddi] I do not know. We have assigned Ahmad Gaylani, head of the Supreme Court, to supervise the elections. I have no objection to holding elections, though I believe that conditions are not suitable now because of the existence of some disputes. [Mojadeddi ends]

On mujahidin relations with Pakistan, President Sebghatullah Mojadeddi said: Our relations are good, and there has been no change in Islamabad's policy on the Afghan issue.

On his government's relationship with the eight Iran-based parties President Mojadeddi said: We held talks with them, and they announced their support for our government and promised to participate in power.

[Mahjub] When will the mujahidin capture Kabul?

[Mojadeddi] Only Almighty God knows. If the Soviets cease their backing for the Kabul government, it will not be able to continue for long. Undoubtedly international pressure on the Soviets could contribute to reducing their backing for the Kabul regime. Some might not know that the Soviets supply the agent Kabul regime with $300 million worth weapons a month. I call on the Islamic states to help us both equally and justly and not to provide aid to some of the elements harming our jihad. The aid should be provided only to those who are fighting the communists.

4 Opposition Groups in Faryab Join Reconciliation

BK2610100189 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 26 Oct 89

[Text] Four armed opposition groups, comprising 1,150 armed and 2,850 unarmed persons, stopped war and joined the policy of national reconciliation in Faryab Province. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's correspondent reports that out of the four groups, three groups comprising 350 armed and 200 unarmed persons headed by Mohammad 'Ali and Akhtar Mohammad, 200 armed and 500 unarmed persons headed by Jailani stopped war in areas of Qeysar District of Faryab Province, and the fourth group composed of 150 armed and 50 unarmed persons headed by (Qamra Beg) stopped their armed activities in the areas of Shirin Tagab District.

Major General (Abdul Haq ul Umis ul Fitri) of the High Council of Defense of the country and the provincial leadership of Faryab Province and a large number of the peaceful people of that province welcomed warmly the aforementioned groups and several heads of sheep were sacrificed on the occasion (?under) Afghan tradition. Then in the large gathering, which was held on the occasion, the secretary of the High Defense Council of the country talked in detail on the historic importance of the policy of national reconciliation and its human and lofty aims and described their good action as a wide and important step forward in the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and stoppage of war of fratricide and ensuring of peace and security throughout the country.

In response, one of the heads of the aforementioned groups representing the others said that they did so in order to maintain peace and security and fully realize the policy of national reconciliation, which is the aspiration of every Afghan. He pointed out that every Afghan was tired of the war of fratricide in the country and will work with all devotion and energy for the progress and development of Afghanistan, safeguarding every inch of their soil against the attacks and invasion of foreigners and will take active part in the rehabilitation of the country.

Rebels Shoot Down Fighter Plane in Paghman

BK2510131889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have shot down a fighter plane of the Kabul regime in Paghman District. The plane was bombing the area, apparently in retaliation after four Kabul regime soldiers defected to mujahidin with their heavy weapons.

Extremists Fire Five Missiles at Kabul

LD2510171289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1000 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Again today, the Pakistani-backed criminal extremists fired five long-range surface-to-surface missiles at the residential and populated regions of Kabul, martyring or injuring a number of our compatriots.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of this shocking crime carried out by the extremists against our Muslim people on the basis of state terrorism plans of the United States and Pakistan, 5 of our compatriots, including 4 children and 1 woman, were martyred, and 12 others were injured.

The injured were quickly taken to the hospitals, where they are under serious treatment.

5 Killed, 12 Injured

BK2510154089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 25 (AFP)—Afghan rebels fired five rockets on Kabul, killing at least five people and injuring 12 Wednesday [25 October], Radio Kabul said. The state-run radio, monitored here, gave no further details.

The rocket attack came after a lull of four days. At least six people were killed in rocketing Saturday on the Afghan capital.

Rebel Arms Supply Destroyed by Rival Group

LD2210211989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Recently a terrifying explosion took place at an arms depot of the extremist group of Mawlawi Nabi Mohammadi in Laghman Province. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as result of the explosion, which was caused by a mine placed by individuals associated with a rival group, a large amount of arms including mortars, surface-to-surface rockets, tens of various types of weapons ammunition boxes, mortar shells, and hand grenades were destroyed.

Armed Forces Units Score Battle Victories

LD2410104389 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Armed Forces units based in Khowst District are discharging their patriotic and combat duties with high combat morale and in a worthy manner and have inflicted crushing blows on the Pakistani military, Saudi Wahabis, and armed extremists groups.

Citing an authoritative source of the Armed Forces the BAKHTAR military section reports that over the past few days Armed Forces units based in Khowst District have been engaged in strengthening their positions, and some units have dealt crushing blows on enemy positions and therefore have obtained better positions. Due to the pressure brought by the forces the enemy has been unable to mount real combat operations.

Pakistan-backed armed extremists have fired with heavy weapons on the city of Gardeyz and nearby security posts and also on units in the Yaqubi, Ali Khel, (Zazi Maydan), and Towr Ghar areas, as a result of which six members of the units were wounded and some children and one woman were martyred.

Our Armed Forces have inflicted crushing artillery strikes and air raids on enemy positions, as a result of which 180 members of the enemy's joint force were ousted from combat lines, and one set of enemy missiles, along with 42 shells, 10 DShKs, 1 ZK1, 2 rocket launchers, 4 recoilless guns, and 4 light arms were destroyed.

The source adds that units in Nangarhar are in their previous positions, and some units have mounted ambushes and cleanup operations in the directions of Kahan, (Katraghai), Chaprahar, and Samar Kheyl, as a result of which 11 rounds of machine-gun ammunition, 11,200 rounds of Kalashnikov ammunition, 50 mortar shells, 3 boxes of explosives, 6 boxes of antiaircraft ammunition, and 10 rocket launchers were captured. Criminal extremists fired in the directions of Samar Kheyl and Behsud and on the residential areas and security posts of Jalalabad, as a result of which two members of the Armed Forces were injured, and three civilians were martyred. As a result of crushing strikes, a number of enemy positions were destroyed, and 236 warmongers associated with Pakistan were ousted from combat lines and their 5 arms and ammunition depots and [word indistinct] were captured.

According to another report, the enemy fired on Charikar City, Kalandar-khel, and Qaleh-ye Qazi areas, as a result of which four members of units were injured and another was martyred. In response to this, air and artillery forces dealt blows against enemy positions as a result of which (?146) of the enemy, including commanders, were ousted from combat lines. Their BM1 set, six rocket launchers, two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, and seven mortars were destroyed. Units are fulfilling their duties with high combat morale.

Roundup of Military Situation 10-21 Oct

LD2510084789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 24, BAKHTAR—In the span of October 10-21, 1989 the extremists fired 17 ground to ground rockets on the residential areas in the capital. Eighteen civilians were killed and 23 others wounded.

Becoming aware of the benefits of the national reconciliation policy 6000 armed extremists belonging to the Sayaf-Rabbani, Gulbuddin, Muhammadi and Muwlawi Nabi bands joined that policy in the Herat, Jawzjan, Farah, Qandahar and other provinces during that period.

Also, during the retaliatory and mopping up operations of the Armed Forces in the Khowst Grand District, Jalalabad, Qandahar, Herat and Laghman Provinces, 973 extremists were either killed or wounded.

Three servicemen and 10 civilians were killed and 16 servicemen as well as 13 civilians wounded.

Similarly, 265 families composed of 839 persons who were living under hard conditions in Iran and Pakistan returned home and after receiving adequate state assistance were resettled in their homes and villages in Herat, Farah, Badghis, Nangarhar and Kabul provinces, during October 10-21, 1989.

Clashes among the Gulbuddin, Rabbani, Sayaf and other extremist rival groups claimed the lives of 121 extremists

and 60 other wounded during the mentioned time. The clashes among extremist groups in the Faryab, Laghman, Samangan and Qandahar provinces still continue.

Fifty six ground to ground Sacker 20-30 U.S.-made rockets were bought from the extremists in the Kuh-e Safi area of Kabul and Lowgar provinces as well.

Also, large quantities of arms and ammunition of the extremists were destroyed.

Notes number 855-876 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the UN Good Services Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) during the mentioned period.

Currency, Trade Problems Affect Economy

BK2110085589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0720 GMT 21 Oct 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 21 (AFP)—Currency-exchange shoppers at Kabul's "money market" are obliged to arrive with their own sack—they'll need it to to haul away the 40,000 Afghanis in small bills they get back for each 100 U.S. dollars. In Kabul, large denomination bills are hard to find.

At this small corner in the middle of the bazaar, where Sikhs, Hazaras and Tadjiks haggle, a buyer of one hundred dollars in local currency will leave—at best—with 400 bills of 100 afghanis. At worst, he'll lug off 800 of the 50-Afghani bills. Balls of twine are a must.

"Nobody here talks about a black market, because the banks themselves advise businessmen to buy their dollars in the money market," Afghan Chamber of Commerce President Mohammed Hakim said. The banks, in turn, find they must follow the rate of the unofficial "money market."

The dollar has nearly doubled against the Afghan unit over the past year. A banker recalled that on October 1, 1988, one dollar bought 214.50 afghanis while banks today offer 399 afghanis.

"It's a difficult situation, the country is always at war," said Sultan 'Li Keshtmand, prime minister of the Soviet-backed regime. "The national economy is in a state of bankruptcy," said a former top official during the reign of Zaher Shah, deposed as king in 1973. "Sure, the economy is free in Afghanistan, but it's at the mercy of the Soviet Union," a diplomat said.

Asked how much the Soviet Union provides to Afghanistan, with whom it shares a 2,000 kilometer (1,200 miles) border, a Soviet diplomat said: "We give the Afghans what they need." "The figures are someplace in Moscow," he said, adding that the U.S. estimate of 300 million dollars a month in Soviet military aid to Kabul to fight the mujahidin insurgency was an "absurdity."

Natural gas exports to the Soviet Union, the main source of Kabul's foreign revenue, was interrupted when the Soviets troops pulled out in February. A Soviet diplomat confirmed the wells had been capped as a security measure. "It was too dangerous to maintain production," he said.

In 1988, the gas fields at Shebergan, to the west of Mazar-i-Sharif near the Soviet border, produced a billion cubic meters (35 billion cubic feet) of gas worth 90 million dollars, according to official statistics.

The nation's overall exports have slumped sharply over the past three years from 511.9 million dollars in fiscal 1986-87 to 394.65 million dollars in 1987-88 and to 106.35 million dollars in the first six months of this year, official figures show. The Afghan fiscal year begins on March 21.

Other principal exports are fresh and dried fruits, rugs and hides.

One businessman said the situation had "clearly deteriorated these last 18 months" because the country's two main roads—connecting the capital with Hairatan in the north, near the Soviet border, and with Torkham, to the east on the border with Pakistan—were often closed to shipping.

"Merchants here do not think only of the Afghan market, but also of Pakistan and to a lesser extent Iran," he said.

The re-exportation of electronic goods from the Far East to Pakistan—goods arriving "completely legally from the Soviet Union"—had become "an important source of revenue," said an export-import trader. He spoke nostalgically of the period "before the revolution" of 1978, when some "65 percent of trade" was with "free countries" and the remainder with East Bloc nations. "It's the other way around today," he said.

He said he particularly deplored the "constraints" of the Soviet-Afghan exchange accords, signed yearly, obliging businessmen to use their earnings for "clearing dollars" in order to import Soviet products. But Mr. Hakim stressed that in September, 82.01 percent of imports came from Western countries against 15.31 percent from the Soviet Union and 2.68 percent from other East Bloc nations. Afghanistan was "open to all the nations of the world," he said.

India

CPI-M Releases Lok Sabha Election Manifesto

BK2510170889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections warns people against secessionist, communal, and divisive forces and

calls for mass action to preserve unity and integrity of the country. The manifesto, which was released by the party general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodripad, in New Delhi today expresses concern over situation in some parts of the country and proposes to fight destabilization attempts by external forces. It seeks to achieve what it calls election of a government supported by the secular opposition and left parties. Restructuring of center-state relations and reversal of the existing economic policies are the other major proposals. As argued in the manifesto, a strong center is possible only if it is backed by strong states with sufficient powers to carry out their tasks. The party sets out as its election objective defeating the ruling party and isolating the communal forces, as the manifesto put it.

On the Ram Janmabhumi Babri Masjid [disputed shrine between the Hindus and Muslims] issue, the CPI-M has appealed to all concerned parties to accept the court verdict on it and fight those who rouse communal passion. Expressing concern for the minority communities, it calls for protection of their rights and security for them during riots. It proposes to fight crimes against women and bring to an end discrimination against them.

The manifesto also calls for a fight against atrocities on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and for protection of their land and rights.

The manifesto blames the ruling party for what it says increasing rural unemployment and rising prices together with the alleged denial of remunerative prices to the farmers. It pledges to take urgent measures to promote employment, implement land reforms, and check the growth of the monopolies and influence of multinationals. Workers' participation in management, nationalization of jute and cotton textile industries, take over of sick and closed units are some other salient features of the party's program.

The manifesto promises steps against high prices and high taxation and relief to powerloom and handloom workers. It seeks to make housing a basic right and wants comprehensive central legislation to protect wage rights of agricultural workers. The manifesto aims to achieve universal primary education, eradicate illiteracy and provide free education up to secondary level. It wants right to work to be made a fundamental right under the Constitution.

On the foreign policy front, the CPI-M wants further strengthening of the nonaligned policy. It warns against undermining of the present foreign policy by reactionary and communal forces and calls upon people to defeat such attempts. It seeks friendship with socialist and nonaligned countries and calls for giving support to the people of the neighboring countries for their democratic rights.

To Back, Not Join Opposition

BK2510150089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 25 (AFP)—India's most powerful communist party declared Wednesday [25 October] that it would support, but not join, a centrist opposition government that may be formed after next month's parliamentary elections.

The announcement was made here by E.M.S. Namboodiripad, general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)], after releasing his party's manifesto for the polls to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

"We have not participated in any government in which the left has not played a dominant role," he told reporters, adding that the CPI (M)'s policy had not changed.

But he added that leftist forces would be able to exert "some influence" after the polls if the opposition National Front defeated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party and formed a government.

The centrist National Front, a combination of national and regional parties set up last year, is the main opposition alliance challenging Mr. Gandhi in the hustings.

Mr. Namboodiripad, 80, added that the CPI (M) had "already exerted some influence in the present situation," an obvious reference to the communists' ceaseless pressure on the front to stay away from right-wing groupings.

The CPI (M), formed in 1964 following a split in the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India, is the most powerful leftist party in India and governs two of the country's 25 states. It ruled a third state for 10 years from 1977.

The CPI (M), which is independent of Moscow and Beijing, and its leftist allies are expected to contest nearly 100 of 529 Lok Sabha constituencies in polls on November 22, 24 and 26. The Lok Sabha has 545 seats.

Asked to comment on the possible election outcome, Mr. Namboodiripad said: "There is no wave for or against Rajiv Gandhi, so the whole thing is uncertain."

Before opposition MP's [members of Parliament] quit Parliament in July in protest over an arms purchase scandal, the CPI (M), with 22 MP's, was the second largest opposition group in the Lok Sabha.

Iran

'Secret Contacts' With U.S. Said in Progress

JN2610104489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that secret contacts are currently under way between the United States and Iran. The contacts, which also involve Japan and other West European countries, center on the possibility of Iran using its influence and the information it possesses to release Western hostages held in Lebanon in return for the United States' providing economic and technological assistance needed to rebuild Iran's industrial establishments, especially oil facilities.

A good part of the talks also centers on the possibility of the U.S. Administration's intervening to convince its Western allies to provide Iran with the loans needed to rebuild its economy as soon as the hostages are released. The White House and the U.S. State Department have received with much interest yesterday's statements by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning the release of hostages and a solution to the problem of frozen Iranian assets. U.S. Administration officials are carefully examining these statements. A senior U.S. official told AL-ITTIHAD that the problem of the hostages and the problem of the assets are not related, as the latter will be solved by Iranian and U.S. courts.

Early Warning-Diversion Missile System Announced

LD2510174189 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Bushehr, Oct. 25, IRNA—Iran has manufactured early warning and high precision missile diverting systems, the Navy commander revealed today while inspecting the Paykan-1 sea manuvers off this southern port city.

Rear Admiral Muhammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan also told reporters that the naval forces were to stage two other manuvers before the year ends (March 20, 1990). He said the military games indicate the Navy's high combat prowess.

The Paykan-1 maneuvers which started today are to be carried out in six stages over a 8,000 square km area in the central and northern Persian Gulf.

Naval Maneuvers Begin in Persian Gulf

LD2510130689 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Bushehr, Hormozgan Prov., Oct. 25, IRNA—Iran's Navy Wednesday began four-day sea games codenamed 'Paykan-1' in the Persian Gulf waters, south of Iran.

Chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan and a number of other officials and commanders inspected the maneuvers.

During the first stage of the sea games, hypothetical enemy frogmen and commandos attacked floating units. Also, ways of countering attacks by frogmen and anti-naval helicopters will be dealt with during the maneuvers.

The maneuver will be held in six stages and in an area extended over 8,000 square kms in the middle part of the northern Persian Gulf.

Army Stages Maneuvers in South 25 Oct

LD2510215589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The great maneuvers called "Alliance With the Leadership" were staged by Ahvaz Army Division 92 on 25 October in one of the southern fronts. The aim of the maneuvers were to protect and increase the fighting and defending ability of the forces of Islam.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Expediency Council

LD2510123289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The Expediency Discernment Council [Shora-ye Tashkis-e Maslehat] met last night and was chaired by President Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to an IRNA report, during the meeting, the internal constitution of the Council was ratified and Musavi-Kho'ini and Mohammad Yazdi were appointed as the first and second assistants to the head of the council, respectively.

State Supreme Court Acquires Supervisory Unit

LD2510130189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] To attend to the sentences and decisions of judicial courts, a new body entitled the Supervisory Unit of the State Supreme Court [vahed-e nezaret-e divan-e ali-ye keshvar] has begun work. Head of the State Supreme Court Mr Moqtada'i, in an interview with reporters this morning, announced this piece of news, adding that it is expected that the carrying out of this task—while speeding up the work to be done and satisfying the people—will contribute to the precise assessment of the sentences issued by the judges.

The head of the State Supreme Court, pointing out that the task of attending to approximately 4,000 files concerning alterations to be made to identity cards will be completed by the end of this week in the branches of the State Supreme Court, expressed the hope that within the next 2 months more than 6,000 files on the same subject will receive attention.

Oppressed, Disabled Foundations Appointed

LD2510085789 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Mohammad Nabi Habibi is appointed head of Mostaz'afan (the oppressed) and Janbazan (the disabled) Foundation, it was announced here Wednesday.

The appointment was made by head of the foundation Mohsen Rafiqdust.

Habibi has formerly served as Tehran's mayor and head of the civil aviation organisation.

Khamene'i on Support for Oppressed

LD2510125189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, this morning received various strata of the Hezbollah people. In that meeting he stressed the need to pay attention to the global and international dimensions of the Islamic revolution, and also to maintain and strengthen the spiritual bonds between the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran and other world nations.

In that meeting, which saw the enthusiastic expression of sentiments and slogans by the audience and of obedience to the Val-e Faqih and leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i made a detailed speech which pointed to the factors responsible for the materialization of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

He graciously stated: The fundamental reason for people's dissatisfaction during the old regime was that the regime gave no value to people's faith, thoughts, and ideas. In addition, the elements of that corrupt regime propagated what was anti-Islam as well as morally corrupt, which resulted in the creation of gaps between people and Islamic customs and traditions. This was indeed imposed on the nation. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated that the global and international dimension of the Islamic revolution is one of its most important aspects. He added: The Iranian nation is one of the most faithful nations among the other Muslim nations, as far as faith in Islamic ideas and structures are concerned. [passage omitted]

He then pointed to the antagonism of the Islamic revolution toward the arrogant powers and its negation of the superpowers. He graciously said: Today, any nation which is under the economic, cultural, and military pressures of one of the world powers is interested in the Islamic revolution. When nations witness that our Muslim people are standing freely and firmly against western culture, against arrogant interference, and against the cultural and military influence of foreigners, they feel affection for, interest in, and pride for our people. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution stated that the spiritual bonds between the Islamic republic of Iran and the other world nations are dangerous for the arrogant powers. He graciously stated: The enemies of Islam are trying through various channels to sever such bonds. The pressures brought about by hireling and dependent governments on nations, is one of the tools that global arrogance has used to destroy this spiritual bond. However, this will not be successful. The more the pressure brought on nations, the greater their interest in the Islamic revolution.

He then pointed to the dangerous weapon of the enemies of Islam to destroy the idea of bonds with other nations. He added: The enemy is trying to induce this thought among the Iranian nation to think only of themselves and of resolving their problems. However, we believe that many of the problems have been brought about by the enemy and have been imposed on us. The various economic conspiracies are indeed planned beyond our borders. The problems of a revolutionary nation may be resolved through various means, one of which is to win world support for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The spiritual bond of our nation and our revolution with other world nations is useful and essential.

The Vali-e Amr of Muslims considered the unity and bravery of the Iranian nation and its bond and solidarity with officials to be among the effective factors responsible for safeguarding the character, nature, and image of the Muslim revolutionary nation of Iran. He then pointed to the strong popularity of officials among the people, adding: The important specific characteristic which has made the Iranian nation so great and shining before the eyes of other nations is that our nation—during the course of the war and the revolution—preferred the interest of the revolution and of the country to personal interests. Today, too, the people should give priority to the interest of the country and of the revolution over anything else. They should strive further for greatness and for the development of the country. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on War Damage, Production, Investment

LD2510131389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The oil minister, Mr Aqazadeh, during a news conference attended by correspondents of international news agencies, foreign press, and radio and television, today announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its future 5-year plan, will invest $8.4 billion for reconstruction and expansion of oil industries, $3 billion in the petrochemical industries, and $2 billion in the gas industries, all in foreign currency; and two to three times these amounts in rials will also be invested in these industries.

The oil minister estimated the damage inflicted on Iran's offshore oil installations in the war at $1.5 billion and the damage inflicted on Kharq Island at $300 million. Referring to a tour of inspection arranged for foreign correspondents of the oil refinery of Abadan and Iran's

gas and petrochemical installations in Khuzestan, he said: The task of rebuilding Iran's oil installations on land will be carried out by Iran itself; for rebuilding the offshore oil platforms and installations, however, we shall receive assistance from foreign contractors.

During this conference, Oil Minister Aqazadeh announced that, at present, Iran's daily production potential is 3.5 million barrels; but in accordance with the OPEC quota, about 2.9 million barrels are produced per day. He added: Over 2 million barrels of this is exported, and around 800-900,000 barrels are used domestically.

Mr Aqazadeh went on: In view of higher demand for OPEC oil in the coming years, when some OPEC members exhause their resources, OPEC's quots system will be abolished and the long term strategy of OPEC, which is being compiled currently, will guarantee that the official price determined by OPEC will be observed.

About Iran's gas export programs, the oil minister said: The Kangan gas project, in southern Iran, will start production within the next 2 months; after that Iran's gas export to the USSR will begin in 5 months; and in addition, that country's territory will become a transit route for exporting Iranian gas to the East European countries.

Referring to the future role that gas can play to meet the world's energy requirement, and Iran's position as a country with the second highest gas reserves, the oil minister said: The project to export Iranian oil by laying oil pipelines through Turkey was abandoned as uneconomical; however, steps would be taken to lay gas pipelines via Turkey to Europe, if a suitable market were found for Iranian gas in Europe.

In conclusion Mr Aqazadeh said: Iran does not need foreign investment in oil, but it is prepared to accept foreign investment in production and export of liquified petroleum gas, LPG.

Commentary Views Measures To Increase Production

NC2510131089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0455 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. A statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce announces that as of today, all state and private production-industrial units can use foreign exchange facilities at competitive prices for their raw material and equipment imports. On the basis of this new plan, which is part of the second phase of the government's new policies, the manufacturers of 131 types of industrial goods can use the government's foreign exchange facilities. [passage omitted]

In his news conference on Monday, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that the objective behind the implementation of the second phase of the government's policies is to increase supply and improve exports. [passage omitted]

Generally speaking, the government's new foreign exchange policies can be seen as encouraging and increasing production and job opportunities within the framework of the first 5-year plan. Increasing production is the main axis of the first 5-year plan. Industry has suffered a continual decline in past years. The general index of production during the first 9 months of 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988] was 85 percent of that of 1361 [year beginning 21 March 1982], which means a decrease of some 15 percent. According to a report by the Planning and Budget Organzation, the country's gross national product in 1359 [year beginning 21 March 1980] was 3,922 billion rials at stable prices, but 2,961 billion rials in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988]. The per capita gross national product in 1367 decreased to 55,000 rials and unfortunately this decrease was coupled with a great increase in population.

The decline in production, which was mostly the result of foreign exchange shortages, coupled with inflation led to economic stagnation and increased unemployment. Because of problems in production and investments, the profitability of this sector was reduced. Since this reduction was accompanied by an increase in the money supply, the rate of return on investments in production was 15 percent while that on investments in services was 240 percent.

Under these conditions, the better organization of production and the removal of the problems faced by production centers can solve the country's economic problems. By removing these problems, we can also increase the profitability of this sector and direct new investments toward production.

This policy of increasing production meets several major objectives such as increasing supply, harnessing inflation, and increasing job opportunities.

Of course, the current unhealthy structure in various economic fields should also be taken into consideration when formulating measures to improve the economic situation. One of the major obstacles hindering production is a shortage of foreign exchange. With the implementation of its new foreign exchange policy, the government is trying to remove this major obstacle. In the process of solving the problems faced in production, all factors retarding production must be taken into consideration. The taxation system, laws on employment, the pricing of products, the renovation of industries, fluctuations in production expenditures, the ownership and management of production sectors, and many other factors negatively or positively affect production. Thus, extensive and comprehensive steps are necessary to improve the level of production.

Article Urges Action on 'Economic Terrorists'

PM2310153389 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial by Reza Khadri: "Uncontrolled Prices Will Not Be Curbed Other Than by Destroying Economic Terrorists"]

[Text] High prices are not just painful: They are gripping a certain poor sector of our society which makes up the majority of our people. In midst of this are people who, with their own great wealth, are not only not complaining about high prices, but can even be considered as firmly in favor of this situation. Because it is this group that is filling its ever-deeper pockets in the chaotic situation.

Of course, there has always been inflation in a country which has been gripped by war for several years; it is even expected that there should be some inflation after a war. But unreasonable high prices, black-marketeering, hoarding, and unreasonable and unjustified price increases are not things that can easily be ignored. It comes into people's minds to ask, since they and the government are unhappy about the prevailing high prices, who the profit-seekers are and how they can be confronted.

Of course, it is possible that so far the issue has not been dealt with in a serious manner, or that there has been no fear in the hearts of these social leeches who suck the blood of the society each day. Or perhaps there has been some kind of shortcoming in the programs to confront the situation that allows the middlemen and the hoarders some kind of escape route.

If we take a look at the upward swing of prices, we see that after the success of the revolution in 1979 prices suddenly broke, and the people did not show much inclination to buy things. They went to the stores only to buy their daily needs. But after the start of the war and the bombing of factories, refineries, and cities, it was normal for prices to shoot up. This was a result of the war; and there was little growth 2-3 years after the war began, until 1983. In 1984 prices were in tune with the war, but from 1985 we saw an abnormal rise in prices and the establishment of a black market. On the other hand there were some who took as much as they could by importing luxury and unnecessary items, because there was no control since the people and the government were both busy with the war. The people gave their lives and property on the war fronts, and they did not mind doing this for the cause of victory, while there were others, whose numbers are few, who thought only about looting and causing fear in the marketplace. These economic terrorists caused as much damage as the other kind of terrorists, who took lives.

Following Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 in the summer of 1988, these social leeches who know no God were scared. They opened their warehouses, and there was such a flood of goods that people did not even need to buy things at the sharply reduced prices. The panic-stricken money changers even sold U.S. dollars at 500 rials in the market, but even then there were no buyers. This only lasted a short time. The economic terrorists' programmers engaged in their own type of trickery and instilled a lack of confidence in society, causing prices to rise again as well as producing material shortages. Unfortunately, the atmosphere that existed at that time was ripe for such a move and we were back to square one.

The price fluctuations caused a great deal of chaos, up until the time of the presidential election. Everyone had his own theory about what was happening. There were some profit-seeking counterrevolutionaries who thought of hitting out against the system in two ways. By careful planning they pursued psychological warfare, saying that prices would fall with the election of a new president. On the other hand they continued to hoard goods, creating a false rise in prices. They wanted to put pressure on the people so that they would lose their trust and hope in the regime and the new president. They wanted to go so far with their plan as to raise prices and create a negative attitude in the poor classes, and to a certain extent they were successful.

Who are these people? What must be done about them? Our people have overcome all problems with their revolutionary patience. But now is the time for reconstruction, now that, thank God, the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has taken control of affairs. With the people's help, it should prevent these types from doing whatever they want, as happened during the war. If there are programs and plans which are not pursued seriously, the situation will not change and the problems will remain.

We saw that a little while ago there was an announcement which said that stores should display their prices so that inspectors could monitor prices. But this plan was never put into action. Because of a lack of coordination and weakness in executing the plan, the salesmen got even bolder than before, realizing that such threats could only last a few days.

But it is different today. Today, the government and the people are free of the war. They should think of ways to ensure that the shortages of potatoes and onions do not become the most serious problem facing society. The mass media should be thinking about other things, instead of just the high price of potatoes and onions. People should not be preoccupied with such things.

These issues will not be resolved until the economic terrorists are destroyed, in any way the government sees fit. God willing, with the upcoming trial of such persons as the head of the Nobovat foundation, others will not have the guts to play around with the dignity of a revolutionary society in this way.

Effectiveness of Currency Controls Questioned

PM2410144589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Oct 89 p 10

[Commentary by Behnam Moshfeqi: "The Effect of Hard Currency Control on the Black Market"]

[Text] New policy to impose government control on the price of hard currency, Central Bank designation of a daily exchange rate, and currency sale through bank branches have had an effect on the downward trend of currency prices. If the shortcomings of this policy are not resolved in practice, it will lose its effectiveness. The lower cost of hard currency will no doubt also have an effect on the price of consumer goods needed by society.

Central Bank officials have repeated several times that the sale of hard currency at special rates to bodies and related organizations will not be limited, and such organizations can obtain hard currency as soon as possible to confirm their foreign orders. Giving such a facility to inject hard currency into society and return hoarded rials to the Central Bank will mean a continued fall in the price of hard currency in the next few days.

In any event, the new policy of controlling currency prices has had good and bad effects, some of which we shall mention:

1. The large amount of cash in private sector hands will be used to buy currency from the trade bank, which means that the value of the rial will go up.

2. There will be a psychological effect on society, because it is certain that a large percentage of the high prices in a country that has been at war for 8 years is linked to psychological factors. Hitherto, the establishment of relations with this or that country or the acceptance of Resolution 598 had meant a great fluctuation in currency prices. Unfortunately the lack of government control unleashed prices again. This time, yet again, the government policy announcement created during the first few hours what economic experts said was a shock to the profit-seekers in the hard currency market. A few hours later the dealers pulled themselves together—once the floating preferential rate price was announced.

3. This will make the market insecure for the currency profiteers who themselves form a vast network of economic terrorists, who have the power to confront the policies put forth by the Central Bank, who with a telephone call could lower or raise the price of hard currency on the black market. But now that the banks authorized to sell currency announce the preferential floating rate for organizations each morning, and since for the time being this has to be lower than the black market rate, in practice the terrorist networks which control the price of hard currency on the black market now have to obey the government's prices.

Despite this, since there are only limited preferred rates for the general public, the dealers may face some changes. For example, the government has yet to come up with new measures for ordinary travelers or sick people going abroad. This is why the majority of ordinary travelers or sick people have to go to the black market to obtain their hard currency and buy the necessary currency at even more inflated rates. The government can take some measures in the future to prevent such a situation.

Let us not forget that the outrageous rise in the price of hard currency continued over the past few years following the cut in the travel quota to $500, and the decision taken on obtaining currency to import production capital. The recent action taken by Mr Rafsanjani's cabinet with regard to easing the situation of travelers coming in through customs and controlling currency prices have had an enormous impact in the past few days on slowing down market prices for both goods and currency. Despite this, past experience tells us that, if the government falls short in executing its recent policies, once again the profit-seekers will come to the fore and will make up for their losses and take revenge on the people.

One last word—this morning the hard currency price rose on the black market, and this was for two main reasons:

1. First of all yesterday, the price of hard currency fell on the black market and the U.S. dollar rate fell below 1,000 rials. This happened as the trade bank announced a preferred rate of 1,000 rials—which goes against the aim of trying to control currency prices.

2. Second, for people who need currency and for travelers no preferred rates were announced, while the people had been told that travelers could take out up to $5,000 with them. But it was not announced where these people were expected to obtain this currency. If foreign travelers are supposed to obtain their currency from the black market, then once again it will be the middlemen who will decide the price of hard currency, and this is where a solution has to be found.

OPEC Urged To Adopt Iran's Quota Plan

PM2510152589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Oct 89 p 18

[Commentary by Reza Qavifekr: "Greater Success for OPEC Will Depend on the Cleverness of Its Members"]

[Text] Oil-producing nations, whether or not they are OPEC members, have reached the conclusion right now that none of them will gain anything from an oil price war. The bitter experience of the price war, with the damaging effects that it did have, forced the producers, consumers, and the big middlemen in the oil world to put on their thinking caps to ensure that the continued oil chaos of the past few years is never repeated.

Today, the oil market is enjoying a logical stability which depends more than anything else on the producers—one group producing in the region of 23 million barrels a day

and another with output upward of 29 million barrels per day. Producer countries which are not OPEC members have for some time now cooperated with OPEC by reducing their production. Mexico, the USSR, Norway, and others from that group decided to announce solidarity and, by reducing their production, reduced the amount of oil on the market. Although exports of oil from the USSR, Mexico, and Angola were reduced by 5 percent, even that small amount increased the Persian Gulf producers ' power through lower production, lower amounts of free oil on the market, and also increased production costs in non-OPEC countries.

Another factor must be added to that already mentioned, so that the equation of market stability can balance. One of these factors is the continued increase in the industrialized nations' demand for oil. The upward trend in the demand for energy imports into the United States, Europe, and Japan has in turn increased the demand for oil in those nations. According to the latest figures announced by the oil industry, oil accounts for 78 percent of all the energy imports of oecd countries.

Alongside all this, there have been fundamental changes in the developing countries' economies such as modernizing agriculture, industrialization, and expanding trade—which means that the consumption of oil-based energy is on the increase.

Despite all this positive news, which will affect us in a pleasant way as a strong member of OPEC, there is a dangerous point at issue which must not be ignored. The oil market, in which stability brings prosperity to the experienced producers, is sensitive in a dangerous way. It is enough for the balance of supply and demand to be upset in the smallest degree for prices to come crashing down. It is a simple calculation. There is production of 29 million barrels a day from non-OPEC producers, and the current OPEC production level is 20.5 million barrels, which in reality reaches 23 million barrels. If we are not careful and if the calculations of the hoarders and the middlemen are not taken into account, there is a danger of pressure on prices right through the end of the Christian year.

It is true that with the capacity of the current market it is not illogical for OPEC to increase production, but, as one Japanese analyst said, if Iran's proposal at the OPEC watchdog committee had been adopted, the price of oil on the world market would have been $1 higher now.

The truth of the matter is that our oil minister's proposal at the said committee with regard to adopting a separate new quota for each member country could play an important role in OPEC's reaching a new agreement. There is no doubt that there will be increased production from OPEC, but if that increase is not based on a definite formula and if it is not divided up between members in a logical way based on their own individual circumstances, it will have negative effects which could be irreversible. If OPEC is to increase each member's quota and if it does not differentiate between its members in any way, the organization will inevitably face a market glut. In the face of this uncontrolled increase in production, if the consequences are not taken into account, there will be a danger facing all OPEC members.

In this situation OPEC needs to adopt Iran's suggestion for changing the current system of quotas to reach a new decision in this regard. One European oil analyst has said that, if OPEC members wish to prevent a fall in oil prices next year, they have no choice but to accept Iran's proposal on adopting a new quota system. Iran's proposal is to keep the current quota for some countries, lowering the quota for a few other countries, and allowing a small increase in some countries' production levels within the framework of OPEC's total production.

Meanwhile Kuwait, as an important OPEC member, has announced that it will not follow the new rules adopted by the watchdog committee. Algeria has announced that it is against any increase in production which would endanger prices.

In conclusion, there are worried eyes watching the annual OPEC meeting in Vienna in November. Until that time, it would be logical and wise for OPEC members to think about Iran's proposals carefully, so that this plan can be reflected in results at the next meeting.

Afghan Mujahidin Welcome Khamene'i Call for Unity

LD2410205489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The council of the eight-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin based in Tehran today issued a statement in which they welcomed the suggestion put forward by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, pertaining to the establishment of a center for bringing Islamic creeds closer to one another. The council further expressed its readiness to endeavor to bring Islamic creeds closer to one another.

IRNA reports that part of the statement reads: Today the world Muslims have understood well that salvaging the oppressed Palestine, Afghanistan, and Lebanon, and in general the emancipation of Muslims from the domination of East and West can only be possible by unity among Islamic creeds and by them coming closer to one another. For that purpose the establishment of a center at Dar al-Taqrib for Islamic creeds, to resolve all the problems and issues of Muslims on the basis of the Koran, the tradition and intepretation, is an essential act.

Marakat-e Islami Member Urges Mujahidin Unity

NC2010131589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 89 p 3

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Text] Tehran—Harakat-e Islami called for strong unity among all the combatants of Afghanistan so that a final blow can be given to the Soviet installed government in Kabul.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad-Taher Modarresi, a member of the Central Committee talking to the TEHRAN TIMES suggested yesterday that a comprehensive committee of seven or eight leading personalities should be formed which may discuss all relevant problems being faced by the Mujahidin and solve them.

"Who should be in that committee is not important. What is important is the sincerity which should receive priority," Modarresi replied in response to a question.

He said that all political and military problems inside and outside Afghanistan should be referred to this committee which should find solutions to all the problems.

Commenting on the interim government of Afghanistan based in Peshawar, Pakistan, Modarresi said, "This government belongs to the seven-party alliance and as long as it remains in the present shape there is no question of recognizing it."

Anyway, he said, now there is not much time left for the termination of that government's tenure so it is better that fresh elections should be held at the earliest possible time and a Shura (Council) of all the representatives should be formed.

Modarresi said that differences among the eight-party alliance should be removed under the framework of Islam. The differences between Hezb-e Islami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Jami'at-e Islami led by Burhaneddin Rabbani started following the clashes in Takhar, north of Afghanistan.

These differences can be solved only in the Islamic way, Modarresi said.

Modarresi also criticized the way the interim government's cabinet was formed. He believes that the cabinet posts should be given to the competent persons so that they may serve Islam in a true sense.

After the culmination of the Islamic Revolutionin Afghanistan, he said, the rights of the minority both religious and ethnic should be preserved.

Modarresi said that official religions should be two. One Jafary followed by the Shiite sect of Islam and the other Hanafi followed by the majority of Muslims in Afghanistan.

Feda'i-ye Khalq Statement on Committee Plenum

LD2210184589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Statement from the Central Committee Executive Board of Iran's Feda'i-ye Khalq organization, majority wing, about the Central Committee plenum held in Mehr 1368 [month beginning 23 September 1989]:

The plenum of the Central Committee of Iran's Feda'i-ye Khalq, majority wing, was held 4-8 October 1989 in the presence of a majority of its members. It dealt with the organizational matters which were on its agenda. The examination of amendments suggested by the political committee, about the measures approved by the Central Committee plenum of Shahrivar 1367 [month beginning 23 August 1988] on the criteria for appointing congress deputies and the examination of suggested changes in the structure of the organization's leadership bodies, were the most important items on the plenum's agenda.

The plenum succeeded in making decisions with a convincing majority. The main points of the plenum's decisions are as follows:

1. The amendment of the criteria for appointing congress deputies: on the basis of some suggestions raised in the organization's bodies abroad, the plenum decided that the names of some cadres, who have been living abroad for several years and who, on the basis of their circumstances and organizational record, were appointed as congress deputies before leaving the country, should be eliminated from the list of congress deputies. That group of cadres will only enter the congress if they succeed in elections. On the other hand, the number of people elected as congress deputies directly through the votes of the organization's activists abroad has been increased four-fold.

2. Changes in the structure and formation of leadership bodies: In accordance with the plenum's decision, major changes were made in the structure and formation of the organization's leadership bodies which were responsible for leading the organization between this and the previous plenum. On the basis of changes, the duties of the political committee and the managing committee [hey'at-e siyasi va hey'at dabiran] were merged and made the responsibility of a new body by the name of the Central Committee Executive Board [hey'at-e 'ejra'i-ye komiteh-ye markazi]. The executive board will have responsibility for leading all the organization's affairs between plenums. The executive board will have (?seven) full members and no consultative members.

The aim of the changes are: The resolution of certain old and new problems with regards to the formation, structure and number of members of the leadership bodies, which were designed in entirely different circumstances, toward adjustment to the actual current activities of the organization's leadership machinery.

The plenum also established two committees for preparing congress documents and for resolving implementational problems [word indistinct] of the executive board; the committees' responsibilities were stipulated.

The plenum also made it incumbent on the executive board to strive to develop and renew the organization's guiding ideas, (?encourage) new-thinking and to understand the (?presentday people) by activating and enriching (?publicity) instructions, through the regular and extensive publication of the congress bulletin and through organizational meetings; and to defend its identity and mission by using all possibilities.

The plenum was held in circumstances under which discussions were held and views exchanged during the past year in the Central Committee and at the level of the organization's activists for preparing the eventual decision. The plenum's decisions were adopted in a spirit of agreement and a sense of responsibility and with a considerable majority of votes cast in the Central Committee.

For the sake of expanding the struggle against the regime, toward democracy for Iran, toward playing a more active role in Iran's democratic movement, for the sake of giving the required attention to conceptual and organizational matters, and toward the reinvigoration of all aspects of the organization's inner life, the resolution of the organization's most important organizational problems, that is, the formation of the congress and changing the organization's leadership machinery, has special importance.

The Central Committee plenum of Mehr 1368 was called in response to that need, and it successfully performed its duties. The Executive Board of the Central Committee calls on all the organization's members and supporters, especially the organization's responsible cadres, to actively support the plenum's decisions and to spare no effort for the decisive implementation of the measures approved and preparing the necessary groundwork for calling the organisation's first congress.

[Signed and dated] The Central Committee Executive Board of Iran's Feda'i-ye Khalq organization, majority wing, 11 October 1989.

Pakistani Commander Tours Air Force College

LD2410124489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] This morning, General Hakimullah, commander of the Pakistani air force, who is in Tehran along with a number of high-ranking army officials, inspected various parts of the air command college and the production line of the "Parastu" aircraft, the first aircraft to be built by our country's air force. During the tour, reports were delivered by officials about the educational and training situation of the command college and about the manner of construction of the "Parastu" aircraft. The high-ranking military delegation from the Pakistani air force also visited various parts of the air force college this morning including: The colleges of engineering, aircraft maintenance, electricity, electronics, mechanics, and air industries.

Ambassador to Bahrain Receives Foreign Minister

LD2510180289 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council is against the present 'no war no peace' situation, and insists on rapid implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, said Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah today.

In a meeting with Hoseyn Naraqiyan, Iran's ambassador in Manama, he said that all regional states are for peace and security in the Persian Gulf.

The 6-member (P)GCC groups the island state of Bahrain with UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the other Persian Gulf Arab states.

The Iranian envoy drew the Bahraini officials's attention towards Iraqi procrastinations, and said Baghdad seems totally uninterested in the implementation of 598.

Also discussed at the meeting were Tehran-Manama relations.

Economy Minister Receives USSR's Mordenov

LD2510122689 Tehran IRNA in English 1136 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Mordenov met with Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh here Wednesday and discussed long-term bilateral relations as well as finalization of an agreement on gas export to the Soviet Union.

Mordenov arrived here Friday heading a high-ranking economic delegation to make preparations for the forthcoming visit of the Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev.

During the meeting, Nurbakhsh voiced satisfaction with the outcome of Mordenov's current visit and considered the Soviet efforts to implement the agreed mutual plans, energy projects in particular, as a practical step towards further expansion of ties between the two neighbouring countries.

He also expressed hope that the forthcoming visit of his Soviet counterpart would result in fruitful negotiations and imnplementation of the agreements reached between President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last June.

"The future negotiations will certainly help further consolidation and expansion of economic and political bonds between the two countries," Nurbakhsh remarked.

Iran-USSR Shipping Line Doubles Goods Exchange

LD2410224389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Following the establishment of the first shipping line between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union, the volume of exchange of goods between port Anzali and Baku exceeded the 20,000 tonne mark.

The managing director of the Port and Shipping Authority of port Anzali, in an interview with a Central News Unit reporter in Rasht, announcing the above said: Following the opening of the first joint shipping line of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, the volume of exchange of goods between the ports of Baku and Anzali has noticeably increased. Two vessels of Iran-Bashir and Ghazanfar [word indistinct] belonging to Iran and the USSR have managed, within 2 months, to transport more than 22,000 tons between these two ports. The cargo included paper, sheets of steel, chemical fertilizers, iron products, spare parts, light machine tools, carpets, sultanas, henna and saffron.

He also said that the volume of export goods of Iran and the USSR, compared with the past 6 months, has doubled.

UK Concern Over 'Tension' in Relations Noted

NC2510112589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Telephone dispatch from unidentified correspondent in London—recorded]

[Text] Political circles in London believe that the British Government is extremely concerned over the continuing tension in its diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. These circles believe that there is cause for concern over Britain's isolation at a time when other West European governments, namely France, West Germany and Italy, have taken steps to improve their diplomatic, economic, and commercial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and when contacts between high-ranking officials of the EEC and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue.

Press circles close to Britain's Conservative Party are overtly expressing this concern. Commenting on the recent news conference by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the DAILY TELEGRAPH wrote that after the Salman Rushdie affair, the EEC members had promised to refrain from high-level contacts with Iranian officials. However, Britain's diplomats now realize that this EEC policy has been violated and that the EEC members are trying to find ways to improve their commercial relations with Tehran.

Japan To Train More Iranian Technicians

OW2410043589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0256 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23 KYODO—Japan will increase the number of Iranians to receive technical training in Japan, a Japanese delegation now in Tehran said Monday.

Japan agreed to raise the number of trainees from 57 a year, the present level, to 67 during talks with Iranian government officials under way since Saturday, delegation members said.

The Japanese government sent the mission to Iran to pave the way for resuming technical assistance, which was suspended after the Iran-Iraq war. Officials added that the mission was intended to stimulate economic relations between Japan and Iran following a settlement of the fate of a joint petrochemical project.

The Mitsui group of Japan involved in the Japanese government-assisted petrochemical project agreed with their Iranian partner to liquidate the 600 billion yen enterprise earlier this month.

The two sides also agreed that Japan will send a mission to Tehran at an early date to study the blueprint for construction of a new airport there and explore energy resources in the country, the delegation members said.

Palestinian Embassy Condemns 'Zionist Aggression'

LD2410104489 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Palestinian Embassy in Tehran issued a statement Monday condemning the new Zionist aggression against Muslims' sanctuaries in the occupied territories.

The Zionist regime is planning to erect a temple and a statue in the highly-sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The statement said, "The act is not only a crime against the Palestinian nation but against Muslims throughout the world."

It stressed that the Muslims by shedding their bloods, will safeguard immunity of their sanctuaries and thwart the Zionist plots.

The statement appealed to all Muslims and Arabs to unite against the enemy's expansionist policies and repressive acts before it is too late.

Commentary Assesses Situation in Sudan

NC2310212389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0451 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] After the Khartoum peace conference ended this week, General 'Umar al-Bashir, head of Sudan's military government, once again called on the south Sudanese rebels to start talks with the government to achieve peace.

News agencies report that al-Bashir is making this request because John Garang, leader of the south Sudanese rebels, has accused the central government of preparing for an extensive attack on the rebel positions. At a news conference in Nairobi on Tuesday he said that even though the military government appears to be interested in peace, it is actually gathering up and strengthening its forces to commence fresh attacks on the rebels after the rainy season in the south.

These remarks came as Sudan's military officials have accused the rebels of rejecting peace initiatives and trying to resume struggles, and to use these elements as a weapon to inflict pressures on the central government.

The Khartoum peace conference ended its work when reciprocal accusations and the absence of trust between the sides and, more important than these, this problem complicated by foreign intervention, have further dampened hopes for a peaceful end to the 6-year war in south Sudan. The conference, which was held in early September at the initiative of the militarists and with the participation of a number of Sudanese politicians, ended last week after issuing a communique. On the basis of this communique, the establishment of a federal system in Sudan under which each local government will be able to choose an Islamic or other legislature was propounded as a solution to end the war in the south.

The rebels have not yet reacted to this proposal which has a relatively newer content in comparison with the government's past initiatives. However, in view of the fact that this conference was boycotted by the rebels from the start, it is expected that they will oppose it.

Meanwhile, at the end of his visit to seven south African countries last week—something he considers to be a political victory—John Garang stated that he will continue his struggle against Sudan's central government. While describing the rebels' intentions as seeking peace, he said that he hopes his 1-month visit to southern African countries will pave the grounds for peace talks with the central government.

Even though the military government of Sudan renewed 1-month cease-fires, and clashes between government forces and rebels in the south have stopped, nevertheless it seems that with the failure of the peaceful initiatives that have been propounded by Gen al-Bashir until now, the possibility of a resumption of military clashes has increased. Gen al-Bashir, who overthrew the 3-year government of Sadiq al-Mahdi in a coup in July this year, has granted priority to the war in the south since he came to power and he has thus tried to convince the rebels to accept a peaceful solution. Recently he even stated that the possibility of the cessation of the south as a solution to the 6-year rebels' war on the condition that this is what the residents in the said areas want can be studied.

The Sudanese officials believe that the government has, by propounding various initiatives and the approval of a new proposal at the Khartoum peace conference on the formation of a federal rule in the country, taken almost all the possible paths to peacefully end the war in the south. On the other hand, the rebels—who feel that they are in a stronger position—have rejected these proposals until now and have increased on their obstinacy.

During his recent visit to southern African countries, Col John Garang stated that he is struggling to create a new Sudan and that he does not want to gain power. However, he alleged previously to be struggling against the domination of the Muslim Arabs of south Sudan over the people in the south.

In view of the vast foreign support the Sudanese rebels enjoy, there is no doubt that the main roots of the civil war in that country stem from a colonialist plot aimed at annihilating the united Islamic nature of Sudan. However, political observers believe that the weak approaches by Sudan's military government have created circumstances that have led to the further consolidation of the positions of the rebels in the south.

Sri Lanka

Last Members of Indian Contingent Leaves Amparai

BK2510161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] The last contingent of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] de-inducted from Amparai District of the north-eastern province of Sri Lanka left Trincomalee this afternoon for home. An affectionate send-off was given to the contingent, among others, by the Sri Lankan minister of state for defense and foreign affairs, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, and the chief minister of the north-eastern province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal.

Security Forces Kill 42 in 'Revenge Killings'

BK2510125589 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Oct 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The bodies of 42 youths are reported to have been discovered in Sri Lanka's central hill country. Most are thought to have been revenge killings by the security forces after the murder of a policeman's family 2 days ago. Chris Nuttel sent this report from Colombo:

[Begin recording] The JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] has been carrying out a campaign of killings of the families of soldiers and policemen and the security forces have warned they will kill 10 families of suspected subversives for every one of theirs murdered. Seven members of a policeman's family, including three women, were shot or hacked to death at their home in Katugastota in the central Kandy District on Monday night. A 5-year-old girl was spared by the guerrillas. In apparent reprisal killings, the bodies of 24 youths were found spread out on a road in the same area in the early hours of Wednesday [25 October]. Residents reported police later cleared the road, loading the bodies onto an open truck. Eighteen bodies of youths were found in other parts of the Kandy District, the worst area in the country for these types of killings. The JVP whose power base is in the Sinhalese south is now active in the Tamil-dominated north and east. Among the 39 other killings reported by the security forces, the JVP is reported to have ambushed a Sri Lankan Army patrol in the northeastern district of Trincomalee, killing a soldier. Three people were killed when guerrillas blew up a tractor with a land mine in the eastern district of Amparai. [end recording]

39 Killed by Militants

BK2510090089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 39 people were killed in separate incidents of violence since last night. Military sources in Colombo say that the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna was responsible for the killings.

Government Communique Cites Acts of Subversion

BK2410115389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1032 GMT 24 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 24 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Unidentified persons abducted E.A. Gamini, B.M. Wijeratne, M.M. Karunaratna and E.T. Girigoris from their residences at Kirulyaya and Ethimale at Moneragala in the Uva Province and stabbed them to death, states a government communique issued today. Two jacks belonging to the Pelawatte sugar corporation was also robbed by unidentified persons at Moneragala.

In the western province at Colombo, Vasantha Eriyagama was abducted by unidentified armed gang at Jambugasmulla and some other gunmen damaged machines and set fire to a bowser [pump] belonging to the Angulana rural development authority.

During cordon and search operations conducted by the security forces, eight suspected subversives were arrested at Udahamulla, Thotalanga and Hokandara, in the same area.

At Gampaha, subversives robbed Rupees 6,850 and a ticket machine from the conductor of a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] bus at Dalugama. One subversive gave himself up to the police at Gampaha.

At Kegalle, in the Sabaragamuwa province, subversives set fire to the Kabagamuwa and Kanargama sub-post offices. During cordon and search operations conducted by the security forces in Hemmathgama, Dehiowita, Thaliyadda, and Devalagama, 84 suspectd subversives were taken in for questions. At Hettimulla, security forces recovered from a subversive hideout 447 national identity cards, swords and galkattas [locally made pistols]. Two subversives gave themsevles up to the security forces at Yatiyantota and at Ratnapura. During an operation, security forces shot dead one subversive while he was trying to escape from custody.

In the southern province, at Galle, unidentified persons robbed goods and other items from the Thiniyawala co-operative store and at Matara subversives set fire to a SLTB bus belonging to the Akuressa depot at Uraragala.

The documents of the Jambugahapitiya sub-post office was burnt by subversives, who also set fire to a tea factory belonging to the Waithalawa estate in Kandy, Central Province.

At Matale, the paddy marketing board building was set on fire by subversives at Narangamuwa. Security forces recovered 175 national identity cards and a stolen motor cycle from a subversive safe house from the same area.

At Ampara, in the eastern province, S.A.R.S.M. Mansoor was assaulted and injured by unidentified persons. He succumbed to his injuries at the Nintavur hospital.

In Batticaloa, an EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] member was shot dead by unidentified gunmen, who also shot dead a TNVF [expansion unknown] member and removed his weapon.

At Valaichchenai, S. Nagarajaha, a TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] member was shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

Militants threw two hand grenades near Andrews Theater at Trincomalee injuring two EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] and one TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] member seriously.

At Seruwila, subversives attacked a guard room of the security forces detachment, killing a soldier and removed one T-56 rifle, one China LMG [Light Machine Gun], one T-56 magazine, two LMG drums, 269 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, states the communique.

At Jaffna, northern province, militants fired at two EPRLF members, killing one and injuring another.